BLACK AND WHITE

A FOUR-PART ADVENTURE BY MATT FITTON

DRAMATIS PERSONAE:

THE DOCTOR: SYLVESTER McCOY
Time traveller.

ACE: SOPHIE ALDRED
Time traveller's companion.

HEX: PHILIP OLIVIER
Time traveller's other companion.

CAPTAIN LYSANDRA ARISTEDES: MAGGIE O'NEILL
F, E40s, of Greek descent. Formerly of the Forge.

PTE SALLY MORGAN: AMY PEMBERTON
(20s) Cadet gone AWOL. Adaptable, reliable, resourceful.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(M, 20s) Warrior seeking to prove his worth.

OLD BEOWULF:
(M, 40s) The same, become a King.

WEOHSTAN:
(M, 40s) storyteller and spin-doctor, father of Wiglaf.

WIGLAF:
(M, 20s) Eager, blunt but loyal warrior, son of Weohstan.

GARUNDEL:
(M) Urodelian – alien salamander – American, drawling, camp.

ALSO: NORSEMEN (inc UNFERTH and HROTHULF); WARBOT.

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PART ONE

REPRISE FROM 'PROTECT AND SURVIVE':

(FX: TARDIS FINISHES LANDING)

HEX:
The TARDIS. It worked! Ace, it worked!

(FX: FOLLOW THEM AS THEY TROT EXCITEDLY OVER TO TARDIS.)

ACE:
Hang about, it's black. Something has turned it black.

HEX:
Who cares what colour it is, it's here isn't it?

ACE:
Doctor? Doctor, are you in there?

(FX: ACE PUSHES DOOR OPEN, CUT TO:)

***80. INT. BLACK TARDIS – CONTROL ROOM [CONTINUOUS]* (NB: REVISED)**

(FX: ACE AND HEX ENTER)

HEX:
(RUSHING TO CONSOLE) Okay, we've gotta get out of here before this dimension collapses.

ACE:
(SEEING ARISTIDES) Er, Hex.

HEX:
(AT CONSOLE, OBLIVIOUS) First, close the doors, then I think I can remember the right sequence of switches on the console –

(FX: DOORS CLOSE)

HEX:
This switch first…

(FX: BUTTONS PRESSED)

ACE:
Hex.

HEX:
What?

(FX: HEX STOPS PRESSING BUTTONS AS TARDIS TAKES OFF.)

ACE:
We're not alone in here. Look.

HEX:
Oh my – [God]

(FX: FUTURISTIC GUN COCKED)

ARISTIDES:
Don't move, either of you.

HEX:
I don't believe it.

ACE:
(TO ARISTIDES) What are you doing here?

ARISTEDES:
Nice to see you too, Miss McShane. I might ask the same question.

ACE:
Yeah, and who's your friend with the gun?

SALLY:
Captain? You know these people?

ARISTEDES:
Just keep them covered, Private.

ACE:
I'll ask again, shall I? What are you doing here?

HEX:
More to the point – what have you done with the Doctor?

(MUSIC: OPENING THEME)

SCENE 1: INT. BLACK TARDIS – CONTROL ROOM [CONTINUOUS]

(FX: TARDIS IN FLIGHT – TV MOVIE FX)

ARISTIDES:
Done, Mr Schofield? We've not done anything with the Doctor.

ACE:
Yeah, chinny reckon. So how did the Forge get hold of the TARDIS?

ARISTEDES:
Believe it or not, Miss McShane – I'm not with the Forge. Not any more.

ACE:
Course you're not – (NEEDLING HER) – Lysandra.

HEX:
What's with the TARDIS paint job? Why's it black?

SALLY:
Captain, what are they talking about?

HEX:
You wanna watch who you hang around with, soldier. Your C.O., she's got some well dodgy mates.

SALLY:
That's as maybe. But we're with the Doctor.

ACE:
Let's get one thing straight, Private Benjamin. –

SALLY:
Private Morgan, actually. Sally Morgan –

ACE:
Yeah, whatever. We're with the Doctor. Most likely her goons have got him.

ARISTEDES:
I told you. I'm not with the Forge.

ACE:
The Forge, C-4, Monster Raving Loonies – I don't care what you call [yourself]

ARISTEDES:
(INTERRUPTING) Just listen, for once. We're with the Doctor.

HEX:
But you're not, are you? With him, I mean.

SALLY:
Not right now, no. He just stepped out [and]-

(FX: WHUMP AS TARDIS LURCHES – ALL STUMBLE)

HEX:
What was that?

ARISTEDES:
(FX: CHECKING TARDIS CONTROLS) I'll see where we are…

ACE:
Oi, Lysandra! Get off the controls!

ARISTEDES:
Wherever we were, we've been expelled into the vortex. It's-

ACE:
(RUNNING & GRABBING ARISTEDES) I said. Don't touch the console!

HEX:
Ace!

SALLY:
(FX: COCKING PISTOL) Don't move, Mr Schofield.

ARISTEDES:
(STRUGGLING WITH ACE) Get your hands off me, McShane.

ACE:
(STRUGGLING) You get <u>your</u> hands off the TARDIS!

ARISTEDES:
(STRUGGLING) Morgan!

SALLY:
(RUNNING & GRABBING ACE) The Captain said – Get! Off!

(FX: CRASH – ACE THROWN INTO DOCTOR'S READING CHAIR)

HEX:
Two against one? That's not fair.

ARISTEDES:
Nurse Schofield – make sure Ace is OK. Morgan doesn't know her own strength.

HEX:
What did that chair ever do to you, eh? Here, gimme your hand…

ACE:
(GETTING UP) I can do it myself. (SARCASTIC) Thanks for your help, Hex.

ARISTEDES:
Keep them covered, Private. (BEAT) You've had your little tantrum. Now. Can we actually talk?

ACE:
Don't point that pistol at me, Sergeant Barbie.

HEX:
No need for the gun is there? Isn't it obvious what's happened?

ARISTEDES:
And what's that?

HEX:
You and… Morgan, right? You've gotta be from the future. The Doctor's future. He must be travelling with youse two after we've, er… left. (BEAT) Or something?

SALLY:
Not just a pretty face, are you?

ARISTEDES:
You think we're in a future version of your TARDIS?

HEX:
Yeah. Must be.

ACE:
Nice theory, Hex, mate. (HOLDING UP BOOK) Only I think <u>this</u> stuffs it up.

SALLY:
A book?

ACE:
(READING) 'The Tale of Beowulf'. It was here. In his armchair.

ARISTEDES:
How does that invalidate Schofield's theory?

ACE:
'Cos the Doctor was reading it last time I saw him.

ARISTEDES:
Let me see. (BEAT) You're not going to assault me again?

ACE:
(CONSIDERING) Not planning to. No.

ARISTEDES:
Private. Lower your weapon. Stand down.

SALLY:
(HOLSTERING PISTOL) Yes, Ma'am.

ARISTEDES:
(TAKING BOOK FROM ACE) Yes. I've seen this book before. He was doing some research. For our next mission.

HEX:
Hang on. I'm getting my head round this. The Doctor was reading that exact same book last time we all saw him?

ARISTEDES:
Could be coincidence?

ACE:
You don't believe that any more than I do, Lysandra.

SALLY:
Our Doctor and their Doctor – he's one and the same?

ARISTEDES:
It certainly looks that way.

HEX:
So, he's what? Flying around with me and Ace, then the minute our backs are turned, he's off with you two?

SALLY:
Surely we'd know if we were all living here? How's that even possible?

ACE:
I'm not sure. Yet. But I'd really like to ask him.

ARISTEDES:
You'd have to find him first.

ACE:
Last time you saw him… You said he just walked out?

ARISTEDES:
I was fetching the weapons. The TARDIS – jumped. The doors opened. And then you two raced in.

HEX:
(REALISATION DAWNS) It's him, isn't it? The Doctor. He's doing it again.

ACE:
We don't know anything yet. These two could be making it up.

HEX:
Come on, Ace. This is him all over. (ANGRY) I don't believe it!

ACE:
Hex…

HEX:
I should have known, back in London. Should have just kept walking, after he lied to me about me Mam…

ACE:
There must be a plan. There's always a plan.

HEX:
(ANGRY) Well, I've had it with his plans. Where is he?

ACE:
Hex, calm down. You know what he's like.

HEX:
(SHOUTING) You in here, Doctor? D'you hear me? I've had it!

ARISTEDES:
Don't touch the controls, Schofield.

ACE:
(ANGRY) Don't you tell him what to do. (SOFTER) Hex. Mate. There's gonna be an explanation for this. He's [just-]

HEX:
(INTERRUPTING) I've heard it before. We've just been through a nuclear holocaust. You think that was his plan, too? (TO ARISTIDES) Captain? Get us back to London. Now.

ACE:
Hex, wait…

HEX:
(DESCENDING CONTROL STEPS) I don't wanna hear it, Ace. (EXITING INTO CORRIDOR) I'm getting my gear and I'm going.

ACE:
(CALLING) Hex! Come back!

SALLY:
I'll… I'll see if he's OK. (FOLLOWS HEX)

ACE:
Hold up, Sergeant Barbie. You don't even know [him].

ARISTEDES:
(INTERRUPTING) Let her go, Ace. Morgan's good at… feelings.

ACE:
(SOTTO) I'll bet she is.

FADE TO:

SCENE 2: INT. BLACK TARDIS – CORRIDOR/SALLY'S ROOM

HEX:
(STOMPING ALONG) Stupid. (BANGING FIST ON WALL) Stupid, stupid. Should have known, he never changes. (MIMICKING ACE) 'You know what he's like.' (STOPPING AND OPENING BEDROOM DOOR) Yeah. Too right I do. (BEAT) Hang on. This isn't –

(FX: SALLY'S APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS)

SALLY:
(OFF – CATCHING HIM UP) Schofield! I mean, "Hex"! Wait up.

HEX:
Leave me alone, Private.

SALLY:
It's Sally. No can do, I'm afraid. First of all, that's my bedroom door you're giving a pasting.

HEX:
You what? Your door?

SALLY:
And second, ouch. That hand needs looking at.

HEX:
It's nothing. Just grazed me knuckles, that's all.

SALLY:
Look. I'm just as confused as you. If there's anyone you want to talk to, it's me. Come on. I've a bandage in the bathroom cabinet. (LEADING HEX INTO ROOM)

HEX:
(FOLLOWING) This is right where my room should be…

SALLY:
Yeah, well – unless you're claiming the sports bras hanging up over there, this room is most definitely mine.

SCENE 3: INT. BLACK TARDIS – CONTROL ROOM

ARISTEDES:
So, what do you think's going on?

ACE:
Clearly… I mean, assuming you're not lying through your teeth –

ARISTEDES:
(INTERRUPTING) Which I'm not.

ACE:
… then clearly, the Doctor is travelling with all of us at once. Without any of us realising.

ARISTEDES:
So how's he doing it?

ACE:
More to the point, why's he doing it?

ARISTEDES:
We've both known him long enough to know we won't get a straight answer.

ACE:
OK, so we've got to work it out for ourselves.

ARISTEDES:
I'll run a scan. See who's on board. (PAUSE) I take it I'm 'allowed' to touch the console?

(FX: CONTROL BUTTONS BEING PRESSED, READOUTS BEING ACTIVATED)

ACE:
Knock yourself out. I'll just… make sure you're doing it right.

ARISTEDES:
As far as I can tell, we four are the only life-signs on board. Apart from the bats.

ACE:
He's out there somewhere. I'm thinking, alternative dimensions? He's flipping reality inside the TARDIS somehow?

ARISTEDES:
Could be. Not something I'd want to mess around with.

ACE:
So, he hasn't shown you how to work the TARDIS properly, then…?

ARISTEDES:
Just some basics. A few hours' training a week.

ACE:
Training? I never got training…

ARISTEDES:
That's probably too strong a word for it…

ACE:
You said something before. About a mission?

ARISTEDES:
Each operation has a clear objective. A specific target.

ACE:
Target?

ARISTEDES:
The Animus. The Great Intelligence. The Mi'en Kalarash. Derleth. To name a few. The Elder Gods, he calls them. He's got a list somewhere.

ACE:
Yeah, I've met a few. The Toymaker. The Karnas'koi —

ARISTEDES:
Then you'll know what we're dealing with, won't you?

ACE:
You mentioned weapons. The Doctor wouldn't go around with a cache of guns.

ARISTEDES:
But canisters of explosive are perfectly acceptable?

ACE:
I just can't believe he ferries you two round like his little private army.

ARISTEDES:
Then you'd better start believing. Because that's exactly what we are.

SCENE 4: INT. BLACK TARDIS — SALLY'S ROOM

SALLY:
(BANDAGING HEX'S HAND) Nearly done. I'll just tie off the bandage… (FX: SNIPPING BANDAGE) There.

HEX:
Nice job. Couldn't have done much better meself.

SALLY:
Of course. The Captain called you 'Nurse Schofield'. I take it that's not a nickname?

HEX:
Fully qualified, me.

SALLY:
The Doctor and the Nurse. Makes sense I suppose.

HEX:
Never thought of it like that. (BEAT) Look. It's nice of you coming after me, but you don't know what's happened.

SALLY:
Then tell me.

HEX:
I don't even know you. How come you're here anyway? And what's all this 'Yes Ma'am, No Ma'am' stuff?

SALLY:
We're a unit. A team. You've got to maintain the chain of command. It keeps us alive.

HEX:
It's all a bit… regimented. Formal, like. That's not how the Doctor works.

SALLY:
Well it's how we work. (BEAT) You and Ace? Are you…?

HEX:
No. (LOUDER) No! Just mates.

SALLY:
I suppose it'd be hard doing this alongside someone you… What am I talking about? Mum and Dad managed it.

HEX:
How'd you mean?

SALLY:
Military family. My parents worked alongside each other in Specialised Forces.

HEX:
The family business, yeah? My nan was a midwife. She brought me up.

SALLY:
Snap! Almost. I lived with my Grandad from when I was nine. He'd been a Colonel in Iraq.

HEX:
I've been on the wrong end of quite a few guns, recently. I didn't think you were really gonna shoot me.

SALLY:
I wouldn't have needed to. I've got the combat moves.

HEX:
Yeah, well. I might not be a soldier, but I've got moves of me own, you know.

SALLY:
I bet. I guess Ace handles all the rough stuff?

HEX:
She's not in charge, though she thinks she is. We're not together, like. But we do care about each other. (BEAT) Come on, then. How *did* you meet the Doctor?

SALLY:
(BEAT) I helped him.

(FX: 'WHOOSH' INTO FLASHBACK:)

SCENE 5: INT. BLUEFIRE SYSTEMS OPERATION ROOM [FLASHBACK]

(FROM HOUSE OF BLUE FIRE: SCENE 68, ALREADY RECORDED)

SALLY:
Everyone – into the TARDIS now. You too, Doctor – Ah.

DOCTOR:
Yes, I seem to be rather tangled up in all these wires…

(FX: REVERSE WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 6: INT. BLACK TARDIS – SALLY'S ROOM

SALLY:
There was a creature that fed on fear. Mine, and my… colleagues'. The Doctor risked his life to save us.

FX: WHOOSH INTO FLASHBACK:

SCENE 7: INT. BLUEFIRE SYSTEMS OPERATION ROOM [FLASHBACK]

(FROM HOUSE OF BLUE FIRE: SCENE 68, ALREADY RECORDED)

DOCTOR:
Cool under pressure, Private Morgan. I admire that.

SALLY:
Yes, save the compliments 'til later, perhaps-?

DOCTOR:
Asks all the right questions, and even listens to the answers. Obeys the right orders, disregards the wrong ones. Yes, all very admirable qualities. And with one bound, he was free. Come along.

SALLY:
Course, if you've got any kind words, Doctor – save them for my C.O. I could use a promotion.

DOCTOR:
The thing is, Sally Morgan – I was rather hoping you might consider going AWOL instead.

(FX: REVERSE WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 8: INT. BLACK TARDIS — SALLY'S ROOM

SALLY:
So I did. Two weeks later we were tracking down zombie lizards on a cemetery planet.

HEX:
You what?

(FX: FLASHBACK WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 9: INT. ALIEN CATACOMBS [FLASHBACK]

(FX: ECHOING STONE TUNNELS, DRIPPING. DOCTOR & SALLY RUNNING UP, DISTANT ECHOING LIZARD HISSES)

DOCTOR:
(STOPPING) I've been meaning to ask. Are you lonely, Sally?

SALLY:
(STOPPING) Doctor. We're on the run from an army of dead lizards re-animated by their Ancient God. I don't think now's the time to discuss my social life.

DOCTOR:
You may be right. But it does put things in perspective.

SALLY:
I think you're looking down the wrong end of the telescope.

DOCTOR:
There's someone I want you to meet. I think it's time.

(FX: ECHOING DISTANT LIZARD HISSES)

SALLY:
We're stuck underground with no way back to the TARDIS. Everyone else is gone.

DOCTOR:
I haven't always taken good enough care of my friends. I'm trying to change. After all these centuries… it's not easy.

SALLY:
(IGNORING HIM) Inventory check. I've a bio-tracker. (FX: BEEP) Four shots left in my rifle. (FX: RIFLE COCKED) And you've got- an umbrella.

DOCTOR:
Soldiers have a different outlook. A military life is one of sacrifice. You know that better than most, Sally Morgan.

SALLY:
Doctor – I don't know if this is really-

(FX: CLOSER LIZARD HISSES)

DOCTOR:
Practical as ever, Private. Yes. First things first.

SALLY:
We're getting out of here?

DOCTOR:
Indeed. Hand me that bio-tracker. I'm about to do something rather clever to its innards…

(FX: REVERSE WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 10: INT. BLACK TARDIS – SALLY'S ROOM

SALLY:
After that, we found the Captain. We've been tracking these 'Gods' ever since.

HEX:
You've really put your faith in him, haven't you?

SALLY:
All I've ever seen him do is good. He saves people.

HEX:
I was like you at first. Trusting. Happy to follow him blindly round the universe. But you've gotta be careful.

SALLY:
What do you mean?

HEX:
Some time, some day, he'll let you down. He won't mean to do it. He might even say it's for your own good. He might even believe it himself. But he'll do it. Just… be prepared.

SALLY:
I can't believe he'd ever hurt me. Or the Captain. Or you and Ace for that matter.

HEX:
The thing you've gotta remember is – he's not human. He doesn't understand. He might know all about space and time and that. But when it comes to how we feel, there's a great big blank.

SALLY:
He's let you down.

HEX:
It was to do with me mam. He knew things. Things he should have told me. I thought I understood. I thought I'd forgiven him. And I suppose a part of me thought he might have changed.

SALLY:
Look – it's the same for us. All this time together… suddenly we find out we're not his priority.

SCENE 11: INT. BLACK TARDIS — CONTROL ROOM

ACE:
You know what doesn't make sense?

ARISTEDES:
Everything?

ACE:
He's targeting these Elder Gods when he's with you two. But with me and Hex, they just… turn up.

ARISTEDES:
So it seems.

ACE:
So where were you going? (BEAT) The book! I did Beowulf at school — only paid attention 'cos of the fighting.

ARISTEDES:
(PICKING UP BOOK) Well, it's a twenty-second century edition of a nineteenth century translation of an eleventh century Anglo-Saxon manuscript. Based on a story that originates in the fifth or sixth century. Take your pick.

ACE:
You could steer the TARDIS? To any of those times?

ARISTEDES:
Never got as far as flying solo.

ACE:
What happened with you, Lysandra? I tried to find you once. They said you were on Black Ops.

ARISTEDES:
Standard cover story for missing C-4 personnel. In my case, they didn't know how right they were.

ACE:
You weren't the Doctor's biggest fan.

ARISTEDES:
I changed my mind. Sue me. I'd been made Acting Director — basically a flak-magnet for all the Department's bad publicity.

ACE:
After Nimrod.

ARISTEDES:
Three months later, the Doctor came back. And he absolutely knew what was coming.

(FX: WHOOSH INTO FLASHBACK:)

SCENE 12: EXT. LONDON 2026 [FLASHBACK]

(FX: RUNNING TROOPS & MOVING VEHICLES)

DOCTOR:
(WALKING) Welcome to London, Private Morgan.

SALLY:
(WALKING) I'm… home? But what's with all the police? The army?

DOCTOR:
(WALKING) A little after your time, I think. There's been an… event.

(FX: REVERSE WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 13: INT. BLACK TARDIS – CONTROL ROOM

ARISTEDES:
The evacuees had started shipping in. London was in danger of falling into chaos.

(FX: WHOOSH INTO FLASHBACK:)

SCENE 14: EXT. LONDON 2026 [FLASHBACK]

SALLY:
What's happening, Doctor?

DOCTOR:
There are times when history hangs in the balance. Tipping points. This is one.

(FX: REVERSE WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 15: INT. BLACK TARDIS – CONTROL ROOM

ARISTEDES:
And in the confusion, someone burrowed into what was left of the Archive.

(FX: WHOOSH INTO FLASHBACK:)

SCENE 16: EXT. LONDON 2026 [FLASHBACK]

DOCTOR:
They call themselves the Sons of Kai. The authorities think they're just anarchist troublemakers.

SALLY:
But they're more than that?

(FX: REVERSE WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 17: INT. BLACK TARDIS – CONTROL ROOM

ARISTEDES:
We had no idea. Controlling them was a creature called the Kai'lizakia. And guess what?

(FX: WHOOSH INTO FLASHBACK:)

SCENE 18: EXT. LONDON 2026 [FLASHBACK]

SALLY:
Another Evil from the Dawn of Time?

DOCTOR:
Precisely. Who better qualified to deal with it than us?

SALLY:
No-one!

DOCTOR:
Actually, I've a friend – an acquaintance – who might lend a hand. I'd like you to join her unit incognito – for now.

SALLY:
She's an officer?

DOCTOR:
A Captain. I'm rather hoping you'll get along…

(FX: REVERSE WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 19: INT. BLACK TARDIS – CONTROL ROOM

ARISTEDES:
So he fought it. We fought it.

(FX: WHOOSH INTO FLASHBACK:)

SCENE 20: INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNELS — LONDON 2026 [FLASHBACK]

(FX: GUNFIRE & MONSTROUS ROARS OF MANY-HEADED KAI'LIZAKIA)

ARISTEDES:
(SHOUTING) Back! Get back! (TO DOCTOR) Doctor, it's no good.

(FX: SCREAMS OF SOLDIER BEING CONSUMED — MORE ROARS)

DOCTOR:
Get your people out, Lysandra. It's my turn now.

ARISTEDES:
What can you hope to achieve with that — that contraption?

DOCTOR:
A Cyber-planner's cerebral cortex, in fact. This creature feeds on chaos… so let's give it a taste of pure logic.

(FX: BUZZ OF CYBER-PLANNER FEEDBACK — AS IN 'GIRL WHO NEVER WAS', PART FOUR, SCENE 68 — AND KAI'LIZAKIA SCREAMS.)

(FX: REVERSE WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 21: INT. BLACK TARDIS — CONTROL ROOM

ARISTEDES:
Not long after, he asked me the question…

FADE TO:

SCENE 22: EXT. LONDON 2026 [FLASHBACK]

(FX: HELICOPTERS, TROOPS — CLEAN-UP OPERATION)

ARISTEDES:
(SHOUTING) They're going to hang me out to dry this time.

DOCTOR:
(SHOUTING, WALKING AWAY FROM NOISE) Not your fault, Lysandra. The Kai'lizakia was too powerful. Once it saw its chance, there was no stopping it. Well, almost no stopping it.

ARISTEDES:
(WALKING) But the Sons of Kai, they were just… chancers. It shouldn't have gone that far.

DOCTOR:
Chancers with one of the Ancient Powers of the Universe behind them. The Kai'lizakia was always one of the minor Gods, but still dangerous enough once given its head. (CORRECTING HIMSELF) Heads. Ah, here comes Private Morgan.

SALLY:
(RUNNING UP) Everyone accounted for, Captain. The tech from the Crichton Building's secured. Getting boxed up now for transfer.

DOCTOR:
You've made sure those… particular items, have gone into that… particular box?

SALLY:
Yes, Doctor. Into the TA- (STOPS) Oops.

ARISTEDES:
I wondered where you'd been seconded from, Morgan.

DOCTOR:
I think, perhaps, we should continue this conversation somewhere a little… quieter.

SCENE 23: INT. BLACK TARDIS — CONTROL ROOM [FLASHBACK]

(FX: FADE UP B/G HUM. DOORS OPENING. DOCTOR WALKS IN, FOLLOWED BY ARISTIDES & SALLY)

ARISTEDES:
Why's it black on the outside now? It was white before.

DOCTOR:
Black and white and blue all over. Sally, would you get the doors, please?

(FX: TARDIS DOORS CLOSE)

SALLY:
It can be a bit disorientating the first time, Captain…

ARISTEDES:
Don't worry, Private. I've been in this thing before.

DOCTOR:
(CONSIDERING) Yes. You have. Haven't you.

ARISTEDES:
And from what I remember, you gave me pretty short shrift.

DOCTOR:
You had to stay here, Captain. So that I could come back. So that we could do this.

ARISTEDES:
And the others? What happened to them?

SALLY:
Who's she talking about?

ARISTEDES:
The Doctor had friends with him last time we met. Miss [McShane]-

DOCTOR:
(CUTTING HER OFF) Somewhere safe, not that it's any of your concern. (CHANGING SUBJECT) Private Morgan travels with me now.

ARISTEDES:
So you're a real cadet?

SALLY:
King's New Delta Squadron.

ARISTEDES:
But now you take orders from the Doctor?

SALLY:
I've had worse C.O.s.

DOCTOR:
You know there's nothing I'd ask you to do that I wouldn't be willing to do myself, Lysandra.

ARISTEDES:
So why don't you?

DOCTOR:
Even I can't be in two places at once. Well, not without a great deal of forward planning.

SALLY:
We could do with another pair of hands. You said yourself, Captain, it's not gonna be much fun for you out there.

DOCTOR:
So. What's it to be, Captain? Stay here as 'Acting Director'? Or come with us and take direct action?

ARISTEDES:
Are you trying to recruit me?

DOCTOR:
Think of it as volunteering.

(FX: REVERSE WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 24: INT. BLACK TARDIS — CONTROL ROOM

ACE:
(STUNNED) I don't believe it. Right from the off, he's been using you to track down these Gods and take them out. Two-timing us!

ARISTEDES:
Ace, I never wanted to replace you in the Doctor's… affections.

ACE:
Just shut up, Lysandra. I'm trying to work it out.

ARISTEDES:
(LOSING PATIENCE) I've had enough of this. Boo-hoo. The Doctor didn't trust you enough to tell you his great plan. Get over it.

ACE:
But you haven't replaced us, have you? We're still here.

ARISTEDES:
I had noticed.

ACE:
No. He's running you like crack commandos. Black clears the way for White. Or is it something else?

ARISTEDES:
The only way we'll know for sure is by finding him. I don't like it any more than you, McShane — but he's forced us into this, so…

ACE:
… We might as well work together? That what you're saying?

ARISTEDES:
(TENDERING HAND) Shake on it?

ACE:
Get real, Lysandra. Best I'll give you is a temporary ceasefire.

ARISTEDES:
Good enough.

ACE:
Alright. Let's take another look at that book, shall we?

SCENE 25: INT. BLACK TARDIS – SALLY'S ROOM

HEX:
… So that's what happened with me Mam. (REACHING INTO POCKET, TAKING OUT WALLET) I've got a picture of her, in me wallet. (SHOWS HER) See?

SALLY:
She's beautiful.

HEX:
That's how I remember her. Not all the stuff that came after.

SALLY:
It's good you've got something. (BEAT) Pina coladas.

HEX:
You what?

SALLY:
I never knew my mum either. Not properly. But pina coladas –she and dad always made them when they came back on leave. I remember the smell. Coconut. Reminds me of her.

HEX:
Sally, is she – [dead?]

SALLY:
Yeah. Dad too. At least they were together. That's what they told me.

HEX:
What happened?

SALLY:
Failed state. Middle of nowhere. Their convoy was ambushed. Dad didn't survive the first blast. Mum got some of her people clear, but then… (TRAILS OFF)

HEX:
Sorry, like.

SALLY:
Long time ago. Long time since I told anyone.

HEX:
Not even Lysandra?

SALLY:
She doesn't need to know. Nor the Doctor. Although sometimes, I think he does…

HEX:
What happened next?

SALLY:
Shipped off home. To Grandad's. He was so proud when I got my sign-up papers. Despite everything.

HEX:
The Doctor reminds you of him, does he?

SALLY:
(AMUSED) Oh, no! But now I think about it, he does remind me of Henry.

HEX:
Who's that? Your uncle?

SALLY:
(LAUGHING) No, Henry was Grandad's cat. Ancient, but sweet. Grey-green eyes. He'd disappear for days on end, and do absolutely anything for a kipper.

HEX:
Yeah, that sounds like the Doctor. What sort was he?

SALLY:
You know, I've no idea. Bit of a moggy really. Black and white.

(FX: TARDIS MATERIALISATION SOUND – OFF)

HEX:
Sounds like something's working.

SALLY:
You never know, the Doctor might've turned up. With an explanation.

HEX:
That'll have to be one heck of an explanation. OK. I'll give him five minutes. I just hope- (PAUSE)

SALLY:
Hope what?

HEX:
Nothing's happened to him, like.

SALLY:
(GETTING UP) Come on. Let's find out.

FX: THEY EXIT INTO CORRIDOR, AT PACE.

HEX:
(RUNNING) You know what?

SALLY:
(RUNNING) What?

HEX:
(RUNNING) Your granddad, my nan. We should hook them up.

SALLY:
(RUNNING) Sucker for a happy ending, aren't you?

HEX:
(RUNNING – GOING OFF) Next stop. We find a pub. I'll buy you the biggest pina colada you've ever seen.

SALLY:
(RUNNING – OFF) It's a date…!

SCENE 26: INT. BLACK TARDIS — CONTROL ROOM

(FX: SCANNER OPENS)

ACE:
I thought you knew how to use these controls, Lysandra?

ARISTEDES:
I didn't do anything!

ACE:
(PUSHING HER OUT OF THE WAY) Let me try.

HEX:
(ENTERING, FOLLOWED BY SALLY) So, where've you brought us, ladies?

ACE:
Calmed down a bit, have we?

HEX:
Yeah. Sorry. Lost it back there, after everything. Needed some time out.

ACE:
Blonde hair, blue eyes perking you up? Who'd have thought?

HEX:
(SOTTO) They're green, actually.

SALLY:
Captain? Where are we?

ARISTEDES:
Exactly where we were.

SALLY:
But the engine sound-

ARISTEDES:
-wasn't us. Look at the scanner.

HEX:
But that's-

ACE:
The inside of the TARDIS. Yeah.

HEX:
Another TARDIS? He's got another TARDIS?

ARISTEDES:
And it's materialised around this one.

SALLY:
That's just insane. Two TARDISes? 'TARDI'? Is that a word?

ACE:
Look, Hex. The hatstand.

HEX:
That's your jacket, Ace.

ACE:
Which means we're inside our own TARDIS. The White one.

ARISTEDES:
Occam's razor. We're here wondering about alternate dimensions and different realities. When the simplest explanation is, we've been flying around in two different TARDISes.

(FX: DOOR CONTROL)

ACE:
And now the doors work. Hex, shall we?

HEX:
My pleasure. (EXITING)

ARISTEDES:
Go ahead. I'll run a scan. (TO SALLY) Private, a word.

SCENE 27: INT. WHITE TARDIS — CONTROL ROOM

(FX: B/G HUM. DOOR OF BLACK TARDIS UNLOCKS)

HEX:
(EMERGING & CALLING) Hello? Doctor?

ACE:
(FOLLOWING) Lysandra's scanning for lifesigns. He's shown her how to scan for lifesigns. He's never shown me how to scan for lifesigns.

HEX:
There's me boots. Definitely our TARDIS.

ACE:
Just as we left it. (FX: TRYING DOOR CONTROLS) Doors aren't working.

HEX:
We're still in the vortex, remember.

ACE:
So we're just as stuck as we were. (BANGS CONSOLE IN FRUSTRATION) Where are you, Professor?

SCENE 28: INT. BLACK TARDIS — CONTROL ROOM

ARISTEDES:
(FX: USING TARDIS CONTROLS) Been getting on well with our Mr Schofield, haven't you, Private?

SALLY:
He's a nice lad, Captain.

ARISTEDES:
Don't get too attached. (CHECKING TARDIS READINGS) Right — nothing. Nobody else in either ship. Only his friends.

SALLY:
We're all his friends, aren't we?

ARISTEDES:
Correction. We're professionals.

(FX: ACE AND HEX RE-ENTER THROUGH OPEN DOORS)

ACE:
Definitely our ship.

HEX:
But no-one's home.

SALLY:
So we're still at square one?

ARISTEDES:
Right. Tell me again how you summoned the TARDIS? I'm guessing yours had a delayed response and locked onto this one.

HEX:
The Doctor, he'd set a trap for these two scumbag aliens. It just appeared when we passed his test.

ACE:
I guess it must have been set to automatic. You know, like the Fast Return Switch.

ARISTEDES:
Sorry? The what?

ACE:
You know. Fast Return Switch. Takes you back to the last place the TARDIS- (REALISATION) Oh.

SALLY:
You mean all this time, we could have just gone back to where we left the Doctor?

ARISTEDES:
(TAKING COMMAND) Private. With me. You two – into your TARDIS.

ACE:
No way. You've forgotten, I'm not signed up with anyone. You can't give me orders.

ARISTEDES:
Then what do you suggest? The last thing we want to do is lose one of these TARDISes.

HEX:
TARDI.

ACE:
What I suggest is, I come with you, Lysandra. These two stay safe in the White.

ARISTEDES:
Morgan?

SALLY:
Fine by me.

ARISTEDES:
Let's get you kitted up, then.

(FX: ASIDE, WHILE ARISTIDES HELPS SALLY GET SUITED UP:)

HEX:
(SOTTO) Ace, do you know what you're doing?

ACE:
(SOTTO) Don't I always? (BEAT) No, I want to keep Lysandra where I can see her. As for you, I'd say keep an eye on Sergeant Barbie, but I see you already are.

HEX:
(SOTTO) Hey, what do you mean?

ACE:
(SOTTO) Just… don't get distracted.

HEX:
(SOTTO) As if anything like *that* would even have crossed my mind at a time like this.

ACE:
(SOTTO) You're a man, mortal peril wouldn't stop you from thinking about *that* for a moment. Just – be careful.

(FX: ARISTEDES AND SALLY COME OVER)

ARISTIDES:
Enough of the whispering, you two.

ACE:
Finished packing the kitchen sink, then?

SALLY:
Just the minimum of field essentials. Lockbreakers, plasma grenades, spatio-temporal tracking devices…

ACE:
(SARKY) Ooh, ‘spatio-temporal tracking devices’.

ARISTIDES:
Don’t often see you without a rucksack, McShane.

ACE:
Three cans of nitro and a spare pair of tights, that’s all. You’ll get a hunchback lugging all that around.

SALLY:
(MUTTERED) Someone’s got the hump, that’s for sure.

ACE:
I heard that!

HEX:
(INTERVENING) All set, then, Sal?

SALLY:
Your place it is, Hex.

ARISTEDES:
Good luck, Private. Nurse Schofield.

HEX:
(EXITING, TO ARISTIDES AND ACE) You two – try not to bite too many lumps out of each other while we’re gone, eh?

(FX: HEX AND SALLY LEAVE TARDIS AND DOORS CLOSE)

ACE:
Go on then, Captain. Press the switch.

ARISTEDES:
Why don’t you do it, you’re so keen to take charge?

ACE:
(RACING UP TO CONTROL) Ha! He hasn’t shown you where it is, has he?

ARISTEDES:
Just do it, McShane.

ACE:
It’s like he’s playing hide and seek. All the way through space and time.

ARISTEDES:
Some kind of game, yeah.

ACE:
(PRESSING SWITCH) OK, Professor. Coming. Ready or not.

(FX: DEMATERIALISATION INTERIOR SOUND. CROSS TO:)

SCENE 29: INT. WHITE TARDIS – CONTROL ROOM

(FX: DEMATERIALISATION EXTERIOR SOUND)

HEX:
So, what now?

SALLY:
Just wait, I guess. I take it you've no idea what any of these controls do?

HEX:
I can open the doors, that's about it.

(FX: ALARM BEEPING)

SALLY:
OK. What did you press?

HEX:
Me? Nothing!

(FX: SEVERAL DIFFERENT ALARMS – BECOMING INCREASINGLY URGENT/NOISY THROUGH FOLLOWING.)

SALLY:
You must have done something!

HEX:
Look – I'm not touching it.

SALLY:
Another one! And another.

HEX:
What's that?

(FX: A FLURRY OF BATS SQUEAKING, SWOOPING DOWN, SWARMING THROUGH INTERNAL DOOR TO CLOISTERS)

SALLY:
The bats are leaving the belfry!

HEX:
What do they know that we don't?

(FX: ALARMS REACH CRESCENDO THEN SUDDENLY STOP. CLOISTER BELL TOLLS)

SALLY:
That doesn't sound good.

(FX: NOISY DISTORTED TARDIS DEMATERIALISATION BEGINS AS CLOISTER BELL CONTINUES)

HEX:
We’re on the move.

SALLY:
Yeah, but where to?

(FX: DISTORTED ENGINES & CLOISTER BELL)

END OF PART ONE

PART TWO

SCENE 30: INT. HART'S HALL

(FX: FADE UP. LARGE HALL WITH STONE FLOOR. CRACKLING FIRE, NORSEMEN DRINKING, SHIFTING ON BENCHES)

WEOHSTAN:
We are at the beginning of things. Every tale needs a beginning.

NORSEMEN:
(MURMURING APPROVAL) Aye.

WEOHSTAN:
A monster stalks this Hall. A demon from the depths of misty Hel. These past nights, it devours men whole. None can stop it. Not you, Lord Unferth, with your boasts and your shining sword-

NORSEMEN:
(SURPRISE) What? / What's that? / What's he saying?

UNFERTH:
(YOUNG, PRIGGISH) (FX: CHAIR DRAWN BACK, STANDING) You dog! What mean you by this?

HROTHULF:
(YOUNG, SNIDE) He insults you, my Lord!

WEOHSTAN:
(CONTINUOUS) Nor you, Prince Hrothulf, though it is your kinsmen it slays.

NORSEMEN:
(GASPS – HOW OUTRAGEOUS!)

HROTHULF:
(OLDER, SLIGHTLY FEY) (FX: UNSHEATHS SWORD – SHING!!!) Now you label me coward?!

UNFERTH:
He insults us both, your Highness!

NORSEMEN:
Kill him! / Show him who's Prince! / Let's see the colour of his gizzards!

WEOHSTAN:
(SHOUTING OVER OBJECTIONS) Stay your weapons, friends! I speak only the truth that all of us assembled here know – that no man born of this land has challenged the monster, and lived!

NORSEMEN:
True. / He makes his point. / But what else can we do?

WEOHSTAN:
Except now, now a warrior has come from across the seas to meet the monster in combat. To pay tribute to Hart's Hall and King Hrothgar himself!

NORSEMEN:
(APPROVAL) At last! / Aye! / This is good!

WEOHSTAN:
Swords can do the creature no harm. So he will face it with no sword. Chainmail offers no protection. So he will face it unadorned. No other man can face the beast. So he will face it alone.

NORSEMEN:
(CHEERS)

WEOHSTAN:
You have eaten meat and drunk your fill of mead. You men can sleep soundly, knowing a hero has come to avenge you. That hero's name — is Beowulf.

NORSEMEN:
(LOUDER CHEERS AS BEOWULF ENTERS HALL)

WEOHSTAN:
Come forth, my Lord!

(FX: BANGING ON TABLES)

NORSEMEN:
(CHANTING) Beowulf! Beowulf! Beowulf!

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(STRIDING THROUGH HALL) Weohstan. You are done with your talking? Good. Now. When do I get to hit something?

(MUSIC: OPENING THEME)

SCENE 31: INT. WHITE TARDIS – CLOISTERS [FLASHBACK]

(FX: FLASHBACK WHOOSH INTO FOOTSTEPS ON STONE, COMING TO A HALT. 'BABY' TARDIS VWORP-'CRYING')

DOCTOR:
(CARRYING BABY TARDIS) Shhh. There, there. We don't want to wake Ace, or Mr Hex. The Alaskan air's taken it out of them. Not to mention the battle against creatures from the dawn of time. (STOPPING) Now… where shall I place you?

(FX: CLUNK OF 'BABY' TARDIS PLACED ON STONE)

DOCTOR:
Here. Tucked away in a cloister. Lots of cosy Artron energy.

(FX: 'BABY' TARDIS VWORPING – QUIETENING THROUGH FOLLOWING)

DOCTOR:
Now. Once upon a time. There was a little Black TARDIS. Her mother was a very old, very wise TARDIS. Who was also very White. The little Black TARDIS would grow up big and strong and go on many, many exciting adventures.

(FX: VWORP-'CRYING' BEGINS AGAIN)

DOCTOR:
Shh. You're hungry. I'll send you on a little trip. (FX: SONIC SCREWDRIVER) Bouncing back and forth along your timeline. Days will become years, years, centuries, all in the space of a few hours – a feast of relative Time. Just what a growing TARDIS needs.

(FX: 'BABY' TARDIS ENGINES START… SETTLING INTO CONTINUOUS VWORP – LIKE SNOOZING BABY)

DOCTOR:
There. The little Black TARDIS would meet new friends. And at the end of each adventure, she'd always come back to her mother. Shhh. (WHISPER) I'll be back soon.

(FX: CONTENTED VWORPING. FOLLOW THE DOCTOR WALKING AWAY)

DOCTOR:
(TO SELF) I think Mr Hex is right. The Grim Reaper's feeling cheated. (DETERMINED) Let's do something about that.

(FX: REVERSE WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 32: INT. WHITE TARDIS – CONTROL ROOM

(FX: AS BEFORE. NOISY, FAST ENGINES, CLOISTER BELL)

HEX:
(SHOUTING OVER NOISE THROUGHOUT) You OK, Sally?

SALLY:
(DITTO) Just about! Hex, the scanner!

HEX:
The Black TARDIS! We're caught in its slipstream.

SALLY:
It's more than that. It's… dragging us!

HEX:
Wherever they're going, we're going too?

SALLY:
Looks like it!

(FX: WHOOSH AND EXPLOSION)

HEX:
Whoah – nearly lost them… Maybe we're on the scenic route?

SALLY:
Look on the bright side! If we're all together, surely it doubles our chances of finding the Doctor?

SCENE 33: INT. BLACK TARDIS — CONTROL ROOM

(FX: TARDIS IN FLIGHT, ROTOR SLOWING)

ARISTEDES:
Destination: Earth. We're going back in time. Ninth, eighth, seventh century. There's something else…

ACE:
I know, I can feel it. Something's slowing us down.

ARISTEDES:
Maybe we've done something wrong.

ACE:
How wrong can you go pressing a switch? Maybe the TARDIS misses the Doctor? He talks to it, you know. (CALLING) All right, TARDIS. 'Old girl.' It's me, Ace! Chill, will you?

(FX: ENGINES GROWL AND TARDIS LURCHES)

ARISTEDES:
(STUMBLING; SARCASTIC) Well, *that* helped. Not your TARDIS, is it?

(FX: TARDIS MATERIALISATION BEGINS)

ACE:
Oh no?! Sounds like we're here.

SCENE 34: INT. WHITE TARDIS – CONTROL ROOM

(FX: NOISY, FAST ENGINES, CLOISTER BELL)

SALLY:
(TRYING CONTROLS, FRUSTRATED) Anything! Can you get anything to work?

HEX:
Hey, the Black TARDIS – it's gone! Where'd it go?

SALLY:
I'm more worried about where we're going!

(FX: POWER DOWN NOISES AS EVERYTHING STOPS, INCLUDING BELL)

HEX:
Hey, who turned out the lights?!

SALLY:
It's shutting down. Everything's shutting down!

(FX: STUTTERING MATERIALISATION SOUND. THUD OF LANDING. SILENCE)

HEX:
(WHISPERING) Don't like the sound of that.

SALLY:
(WHISPERING) What?

HEX:
(WHISPERING) Listen. (BEAT) No engines. No hum. Nothing.

SALLY:
It's like the TARDIS is… dead.

(FX: FLASHBACK WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 35: INT. WHITE TARDIS – CLOISTERS/INT. BLACK TARDIS – CONTROL ROOM [FLASHBACK]

(FX: FOOTSTEPS ON STONE)

DOCTOR:
My, my. Haven't you grown! Budding a TARDIS from a regenerating plasmic shell can be a little hit and miss. But you're doing splendidly. Let's try my key-

(FX: UNLOCKING & ENTERING BLACK TARDIS)

DOCTOR:
Ah – you've got your mother's console.

(FX: BEEPS & SATISFIED HUM)

DOCTOR:
Perfect. Two peas in a pod.

(FX: BATS SQUEAKING, FLYING IN THROUGH OPEN DOOR)

DOCTOR:
It seems the bats agree. (SETTING CONTROLS) Now, where shall we go first?

(FX: TARDIS BEEPS)

DOCTOR:
Don't worry. We'll start somewhere simple. No need to be afraid. (BEAT) Not yet.

(FX: ENGINES START. REVERSE WHOOSH INTO:)

SCENE 36: INT. HART'S HALL

(FX: FADE UP. TARDIS MATERIALISATION, UNLOCKING & OPENING)

ACE:
Hello? Anyone home?

ARISTEDES:
(FX: EMERGING, FASTENING BACKPACK, CATCHING UP) (ANGRY WHISPER) Wait. You've got to follow landing procedures. When entering a new environment-

ACE:
(INTERRUPTING) Procedure, schmo-cedure, I say. (CALLING) Helloo! (BEAT) Nice echo.

ARISTEDES:
(LOOKING AROUND) Now, let's see – (SPOTS SOMETHING) Ah! (FX: GATHERING BEARSKINS) Help me with these bearskins, would you?

ACE:
Why?

ARISTIDES:
(FX: THROWING BEARSKINS OVER TARDIS) Not ideal, but they should keep the TARDIS out of sight.

ACE:
You're hiding the TARDIS? We don't usually bother.

ARISTEDES:
It seems the Doctor runs things a little more professionally with us. (FINISHING JOB) There. How long have you been travelling with him?

ACE:
I dunno, you lose track. Years. Why?

ARISTEDES:
I'm just amazed you've managed to stay alive this long. What's that by your foot?

ACE:
(FX: KICKING SHARDS OF METAL) Splintered metal. Bits of armour, maybe? Someone's been having fun.

ARISTEDES:
Not so much fun for others though. (WALKING OVER) Here. By the fireplace.

ACE:
Blood.

ARISTEDES:
And the doors?

ACE:
Smashed. (NOTICING) From the inside!

ARISTEDES:
So someone, or something, left here in a hurry. I think we should follow them.

ACE:
No. I think we should go find out who lives here first. The Doctor always takes it to the top.

ARISTEDES:
(FX: ACTIVATING SCANNER) This metal. It's an alloy. Not something you'd expect to find here in the Dark Ages. I say it's from a spacecraft.

ACE:
Aw, c'mon. Bit of a leap, that, Lysandra!

ARISTEDES:
(FX: BLEEPING) There's more traces outside …

ACE:
You have fun with your metal-detector. I'm more interested in talking to actual people. Did the Doctor never give you his lecture about theorising before the facts?

ARISTEDES:
Fine. Rendezvous back at the TARDIS in twenty minutes precisely. Synchronise timepieces? (BEAT) Ace, you do even have a watch?

ACE:
Er, time machine? Watches are pretty useless when you spend half your time fiddling with the reset buttons.

ARISTEDES:
(SOTTO) Unbelievable.

ACE:
I know how long twenty minutes is. Back here then. Fine.

ARISTEDES:
Just – don't annoy anyone. Or get yourself killed. (EXITING HALL – OFF) Because that would be bad.

ACE:
You're telling me. (MOVES OFF)

SCENE 37: EXT. HART'S HALL (OTHER END)

(FX: NORSEMEN CELEBRATING)

NORSEMEN:
(CHANTING) Beowulf! Beowulf!

WEOHSTAN:
(SHOUTING OVER) He is taking his trophy to show the King!

NORSEMEN:
(CHEERS) Aye!

WEOHSTAN:
(WALKING & CALLING) Back to the Hall, men! We shall feast at the place of Beowulf's victory!

NORSEMEN:
(CHEERS)

(FX: CROSS TO:)

SCENE 38: INT. HART'S HALL

ACE:
Right, Ace – 'Procedure!' (LOOKING AROUND) Fire – glowing. Food on the tables – steaming. Which means either that whoever was here left in a hurry, or…

(FX: NORSEMEN APPROACHING FROM BEHIND EXTERIOR DOOR)

WEOHSTAN:
(OFF, CALLING) Here comes the hero!

NORSEMEN:
(OFF, CHANTING) Beowulf! Beowulf!

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(OFF, CALLING) The fight makes me hungry! Let us feast!

NORSEMEN:
(OFF, CHEERING, APPROACHING)

ACE:
Great. Vikings! Now, what would Lysandra do? Ace's procedure: hide under the table!

(FX: DUCKS UNDER TABLE AS DOOR BURSTS OPEN)

YOUNG BEOWULF:
Feast!!!

NORSEMEN:
(CHEER AS THEY SURGE THROUGH DOORWAY)

(FX: CROSSFADE TO:)

SCENE 39: INT. WHITE TARDIS — CONTROL ROOM

(FX: SILENCE, ECHOING)

HEX:
What now? We can't just sit here.

SALLY:
I'm wondering… If we followed the other TARDIS, then we're back where the Doctor left us.

HEX:
Any idea where that was? Did he tell you anything, say anything at all that could be a clue?

SALLY:
You know the Doctor. Half the things he says are clues to something…

(FX: FLASHBACK WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 40: INT. BLACK TARDIS — CONTROL ROOM [FLASHBACK]

DOCTOR:
(QUOTING) 'O wise of men, mourn not; for to each man 'tis better/ That his friend he awreak than to weep overmuch.'

ARISTEDES:
(BEAT) And that's helpful because…?

DOCTOR:
Poor old William. No-one much cared for his translation at the time. Personally, I think it has a certain… brio.

SALLY:
Translation of what?

DOCTOR:
(BUSY AT CONTROL) Now, the Mythos can be broken down into three stages. Thesis. Antithesis. Synthesis.

ARISTEDES:
Right. It's one of those conversations, is it?

DOCTOR:
(FX: FIDDLING WITH CONTROLS) Every story has a beginning. A middle. And an end. But not necessarily in that order. It's a question of finding the correct point of entry… There!

SALLY:
So where are we going Doctor?

DOCTOR:
Somewhere cold. (THOUGHTFUL) With an icy reception in prospect.

ARISTEDES:
Once, just once, it'd be nice to turn up somewhere where people are actually pleased to see us.

DOCTOR:
You usually manage to win them round, Lysandra.

ARISTEDES:
I'll break out the weapons. (EXITS TO CORRIDOR)

DOCTOR:
(CALLING) It must be your sunny disposition!

SALLY:
She's right, though, Doctor. It'd be much simpler if we could actually tell people we're there to help as soon as we arrive.

DOCTOR:
It's an unwritten rule of the universe, Sally Morgan, that no sooner one resolves to keep things simple, they become very complicated, very quickly.

SALLY:
Yes, I have noticed…

DOCTOR:
Besides, people often don't realise they need help. Or won't admit it.

SALLY:
So where are we going this time?

DOCTOR:
I told you. Into a story.

SALLY:
OK. That's all I'm getting?

(FX: TARDIS MATERIALISATION)

DOCTOR:
For now. A-ha! We've arrived.

SALLY:
I'll get my pack. (EXITS TO CORRIDOR)

DOCTOR:
(CALLING AFTER SALLY) I meant what I said. It'll be chilly out there. You'd best wrap up.

(FX: TARDIS DOORS)

DOCTOR:
(EXITING TARDIS) Now, then. Where are you hiding? (FADING INTO DISTANCE) Right at the beginning? Buried in the middle, perhaps? Or are we at the end?

[NB: SPEECH REPEATED IN SCENE 60]

(FX: SALLY & ARISTIDES RE-ENTER CONTROL ROOM)

ARISTIDES:
Doctor?

SALLY:
Don't go without us! (RUSHING TO DOORS) Hold up, we're just [coming] — (FX: DOORS CLOSE AUTOMATICALLY IN HER FACE) — oh! (TO ARISTIDES) Captain? Why'd you close the doors?

ARISTIDES:
I didn't. I didn't do anything.

SALLY:
What? Well, just open them, anyway —

(FX: DEMATERIALISATION BEGINS AUTOMATICALLY)

SALLY:
(RUSHING TO CONSOLE) No! No! Wrong switch!

ARISTIDES:
I told you, Private, I didn't do anything!

SALLY:
We're dematerialising!

(FX: REVERSE WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 41: INT. WHITE TARDIS – CONTROL ROOM

SALLY:
That was the last time either of us saw him. Now we're stuck in the middle of – well, whatever we're stuck in the middle of, with no orders, no back-up, no way of radioing HQ. Black TARDIS down.

HEX:
Guess we could just follow his lead. You know – see what's outside those doors?

SALLY:
Assuming they work.

HEX:
(PULLING DOOR CONTROL) Here goes!

(FX: DOORS OPEN INTO:)

SCENE 42: EXT. BEOWULF'S RUINED HALL [CONTINUOUS]

(FX: WIND WHISTLING THROUGH WRECKED HALL, MIXED WITH DISTANT XYBROX JETS – SEE LATER)

HEX:
(EXITING TARDIS) Wow. This place has seen better days. (CALLING BACK) Come and see, Sal. It's like a ruined castle. Half the wall's been taken out. Recently, too, from the look of it. (TURNING BACK) Sal? (BREAKS OFF AS HE SEES TARDIS) Whoah, now that's weird.

SALLY:
(AT TARDIS THRESHOLD) Why are you looking at me like that? Have I got something on my face?

HEX:
Not you – the TARDIS! From here, you'll see. (FX: SALLY STEPPING OVER) It's gone all – I dunno, transparent?

SALLY:
That is weird. –

(FX: TARDIS DOORS CLOSING)

HEX:
The doors!

SALLY:
(REACHING OUT) My hand… It's gone right through.

HEX:
Like it's a ghost.

SALLY:
Hex, if we can't get back into the TARDIS-

HEX:
Yeah. We're stuck.

(FX: LOUDER WHOOSH OF XYBROX JETS & EXPLOSION AS OUTSIDE FOREST SET ALIGHT – DISTANT CRIES FROM WIGLAF)

SALLY:
What was that?

HEX:
Come on, nothing we can do here. Not without the Doctor. (RUNNING) And if someone's in trouble, he's not gonna be far away.

(FX: SALLY FOLLOWS. CROSSFADE TO:)

SCENE 43: EXT. EDGE OF FOREST

(FX: BURNING FOREST. FRIGHTENED HORSE WHINNYING. XYBROX JETS ROAR OFF TO DISTANCE)

WIGLAF:
Help! The King!

HEX:
(RUNNING UP AND SHOUTING) Hey, there! You OK, mate? Need a hand?

WIGLAF:
The King's horse! Tis trapped by the trees.

HEX:
(BESIDE HIM) You on your own, fella?

WIGLAF:
The cowards have fled. (PANICKING) The flames! My Lord will perish.

SALLY:
(RUNNING UP) The whole wood's on fire!

HEX:
(THINKING FAST) Sal! You got a laser in that backpack? Something we can cut with?

SALLY:
Pulse rifle. (FX: TAKING OUT WEAPON) I'll set it to a continuous stream.

HEX:
These trees on the edge. They've not caught yet. If you can get that big one so it falls over there…

SALLY:
It should clear a path, yeah. (FX: SHOULDERING LASER) Get you, with your instant rescue plan!

HEX:
All yours, Sal.

(FX: LASER CUTS TREE THROUGH:)

WIGLAF:
Is this magic? A sword of light?

HEX:
Something like that.

(FX: TREE CRACKING AND FALLING)

SALLY:
Timber!

WIGLAF:
(SHOUTING) Sire! Take your chance!

OLD BEOWULF:
(OFF, SPURRING ON HORSE) Ya! Yaaa!

(FX: HORSE WHINNIES AND JUMPS BURNING TREES)

SALLY:
(FX: POWERING DOWN LASER) Job done. Mind out, Hex-!

HEX:
Whoa! (MOVING AS FX: HORSE THUNDERS TO HALT BESIDE. SNORTS)

WIGLAF:
(TO BEOWULF) My lord! You are saved!

OLD BEOWULF:
Aye, Wiglaf. Who are these persons?

WIGLAF:
This Valkyrie and her herald were sent by Odin to save you.

OLD BEOWULF:
Then my thanks go to Odin. We should move. Before the dragon returns. (FX: HORSE TROTS ON)

SALLY:
(FOLLOWING) Sounds like a plan.

HEX:
Hold up! Did he say – ‘dragon’?

(FX: FLASHBACK WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 44: INT. BLACK TARDIS — CONTROL ROOM [FLASHBACK]

DOCTOR:
(TO TARDIS) We'll meet monsters. Oh yes, we'll meet monsters, you and I. But you can't always tell the difference between the monsters and the people.

(FX: VWORPING IN RESPONSE)

DOCTOR:
No, sometimes the monsters and the people can't tell the difference, either.

(FX: BEEPS)

DOCTOR:
Which reminds me. Time for a test.

(FX: SETTING CO-ORDINATES)

DOCTOR:
Let's try a precision landing. On a moving vessel.

(FX: ENGINES STARTING)

DOCTOR:
The Ventalis system, I think. The good ship *Lorelei*…

(FX: DEMATERIALISATION. REVERSE WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 45: EXT. FENS

(FX: TRAMPING THROUGH SWAMP. HUM OF SCANNER)

ARISTEDES:
Well, there's definitely something out here that doesn't belong.

(FX: SQUELCHING)

ARISTEDES:
Eugh. There go my dry socks. You certainly got the better deal, Morgan. Safe in that White [TARDIS] —

(FX: SCANNER BEEPING)

ARISTEDES:
Now, that's something bigger than scrap.

(FX: METALLIC CLUNKING OF MALFUNCTIONING WARBOT IN DISTANCE)

ARISTEDES:
Considerably bigger.

SCENE 46: INT. HART'S HALL

(FX: WEOHSTAN & BEOWULF SEATED AMONG CAROUSING NORSEMEN)

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(ALOUD) Meat! Bring more meat! (TO WEOHSTAN) So, Weohstan, what is my reward?

WEOHSTAN:
Horses, my lord. King Hrothgar has promised horses.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
Divide them among the men. What of the gold?

WEOHSTAN:
I have yet to settle an amount.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(MUNCHING) I do not like the way Lord Unferth looks at me. He should be taught some manners.

WEOHSTAN:
It would be wise not to pursue this grudge. He has some standing with the King.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
A sorry sort of kingdom, this. The land is wet and marshy. I do not like it.

WEOHSTAN:
No matter, sire. We need not tarry here. King Hygelac will hear of his nephew's deeds soon enough. Your name will be on every tongue when the tale is carried back.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(STRETCHING) I still feel the toll in my muscles. The creature struggled, did it not?

WEOHSTAN:
To no avail, my Lord.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
It was a lot… smaller than I expected.

WEOHSTAN:
Yes. We need not mention that.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
The tale-telling I leave to you. I prefer actions to words.

WEOHSTAN:
(RISING) Give me leave, my Lord, I've actions of my own to complete.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
What's that?

WEOHSTAN:
King Hrothgar still parades the trophy. I need to discuss the matter of the gold.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
Go. Politicking is your domain.

WEOHSTAN:
(LEAVING) I shall return soon, my Lord.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
Do — or we'll have finished this feast! (WAVING HIM OFF & DROPPING MEAT) Ah, I dropped my mutton. (ALOUD) 'Tis good your monster did not slip my grip so easily!

NORSEMEN:
(LAUGHTER)

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(LOOKING UNDER TABLE) Now where did it fall? (SEES ACE) Hold. What have we beneath our table?

ACE:
(HIDING UNDER TABLE — BANGS HEAD) Ow. Er, hello. Would you care to see the dessert menu?

YOUNG BEOWULF:
A young lad, keen to see how warriors celebrate a kill!

NORSEMEN:
(CHEERS)

ACE:
Not a lad. Clearly, <u>not</u> a lad.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
A wench, eh? You cannot keep away from the menfolk after battle? Come out from there. (FX: DRAGGING ACE OUT) What pleases you? Something to eat? Roast fowl, ox or fish? Or is it something else you desire?

NORSEMEN:
(LAUGHTER)

ACE:
Don’t flatter yourself, beardy. Oh, and never, ever, call me ‘wench’. Here, have a drumstick. Second thoughts, have the whole chicken. (FX: ACE HITS BEOWULF WITH ROAST CHICKEN AND RUNS)

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(TAKEN ABACK) More sport, eh? You are a fiery one. (STANDING) Right, my girl. We have a chase!

NORSEMEN:
(LAUGHTER AND CHEERS)

SCENE 47: EXT. FENS

(FX: SQUELCHING & METALLIC CLUNKING THROUGH FOLLOWING AS MALFUNCTIONING WARBOT CIRCLES, HITTING SELF ON HEAD)

ARISTEDES:
As I thought. Alien technology. (WONDERING) A robot of some kind. A malfunctioning robot. (TO WARBOT) What's wrong with you? Where are you from?

(FX: GLOOP AS GARUNDEL SURFACES FROM SWAMP & PUTS GUN TO ARISTEDES' HEAD)

ARISTEDES:
And why's there a blaster pressed against my head?

GARUNDEL:
Hold that thought, sister. (FX: SPOUTS OUT WATER) Word of advice. Next time you sneak up on a person, turn off your hi-tech tracking devices. They're making my detectors squeal like a broodlayer on spawning day. Oh, and wear less squeaky boots.

ARISTEDES:
Who are you? What are you doing hiding in a swamp?

GARUNDEL:
So many questions from someone on the wrong end of a gun? You first, sister.

ARISTEDES:
I'm a traveller. Looking for my friend.

GARUNDEL:
Nicely non-specific. So you haven't come looking for that?

ARISTEDES:
I've no idea what <u>that</u> is.

GARUNDEL:
That's Grade A technology right there. Xybrox Warbot remote drone for hand-to-hand combat. Lots of lasers and killsticks. Dialled down to weapontech one point five for… local conditions.

ARISTEDES:
(DUBIOUS) All right… but if it's supposed to be superior technology, why's it walking round in circles, hitting itself on the head?

GARUNDEL:
OK, it's not at the top of its game. (FX: FIDDLING WITH REMOTE CONTROL) And something's fazizzled its remote receiver. The off-signal should be… there!

(FX: METALLIC CLUNKING HALTS)

ARISTEDES:
You haven't answered my questions.

GARUNDEL:
Military, I guess? I can tell you guys a light year away. The name's Garundel. And right now I'm on a schedule. Move it.

ARISTEDES:
(WALKING) Why are you here? What are you, some sort of toad-man?

GARUNDEL:
Hey. Nix on the personal remarks, sister. I am Urodelian. Not a toad. As for 'man', 'woman': don't be so mammal-centric. (DISDAINFUL) 'Toad-man' – huh.

ARISTEDES:
Have you been here long? Seen any other… travellers?

GARUNDEL:
That'd be the little guy in the hat? (SUCKS TEETH) Nasty. I might know something about him, yeah. Again, I say- naaasty.

ARISTEDES:
Tell me. Now.

GARUNDEL:
Remind me. Who's got the gun? (FX: ALARM – LIKE DIGITAL WATCH) OK. 'Scuse me, sister. Got a top level meeting with a local venture partner. I need you to stay right here.

(FX: SCUFFLE AS GARUNDEL ATTEMPTS TO SECURE ARISTEDES)

GARUNDEL:
You're not gonna let me tie you up are you? (BEAT) OK, that's how you wanna play it? Didn't <u>want</u> to waste the shot…

ARISTEDES:
No! Wait!

(FX: LASER BLAST – ARISTEDES SLUMPS TO GROUND)

GARUNDEL:
… but frankly, it's a heck of a lot easier.

(FX: WEOHSTAN APPROACHING THROUGH FENS)

WEOHSTAN:
(OFF – CALLING) Toad-man!

GARUNDEL:
What is it with the people on this planet and the personal comments? I don't go on about the facial hair and hygiene issues. (CALLING) Weohstan. Fella! Over here.

WEOHSTAN:
(ARRIVING) What is this, toad-man? A body? Your… next meal?

GARUNDEL:
For the last time, buddy. Not a toad. I do have a name.

WEOHSTAN:
Garen… del? It is a fitting monster's name.

GARUNDEL:
I give up. So, the plan. Small hitch in the, ah, execution, but you're getting the goods, right?

WEOHSTAN:
The King is pleased. Soon, we will have the gold.

GARUNDEL:
And my reactors will be operational again. All very well signalling the Mothers-ship, but if I can't take off…

WEOHSTAN:
The beast has a mother?

GARUNDEL:
Don't we all fella? I got four. Be back here at sunrise. Or I'll come eat you for breakfast. There's a good native.

WEOHSTAN:
Yes, toad-man. (BEAT) Gar-endel. (DEPARTING) Your place in the story is assured.

GARUNDEL:
Whatever gets me the gold, little apeman. (TO SELF) Can't say it's been a pleasure. I for one cannot wait to get off this miserable planet.

(FX: FLASHBACK WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 48: INT. BLACK TARDIS — CONTROL ROOM [FLASHBACK]

DOCTOR:
No, no, no. You need to learn to follow co-ordinates. Until you can do that, I shan't be taking you back to Earth.

(FX: VWORPING IN RESPONSE)

DOCTOR:
Yes. Where the humans come from.

(FX: EXCITED BEEPS)

DOCTOR:
Indeed. (BEAT) You liked Miss Chenka, didn't you?

(FX: EXCITED BEEPS)

DOCTOR:
Another time, perhaps… But not now…

(FX: URGENT BEEPS)

DOCTOR:
Soon. We'll visit Earth soon. But before we do, you need to learn to listen properly when I set a destination. Now. Let's try again. The planet Celdor, I think…

(FX: DEMATERIALISATION. REVERSE WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 49: INT. BEOWULF'S RUINED HALL

(FX: FOREST BURNING IN DISTANCE. CREAKING DOOR. HINGES BUCKLE AND SNAP. DOOR CRASHES TO GROUND)

HEX:
(FROM OUTSIDE) Needs a bit of oil.

OLD BEOWULF:
(ENTERING) Come in. You are welcome in what remains of my home.

SALLY:
(ENTERING) Thank you, Your, er, Majesty.

WIGLAF:
It still offers shelter from the night winds.

SALLY:
This is your home? But it's just… ruins.

OLD BEOWULF:
'Tis a ruin now, Valkyrie. You should have seen it filled with Geat warriors and their women. There was a mead-hall.

HEX:
That's a point. Where is everyone?

WIGLAF:
Address your king with respect, knave!

HEX:
How come she's all 'great Valkyrie' and I get the knave treatment?

WIGLAF:
You bleed, boy. Your hand is bound and I see the stain. You are mortal. The Shieldmaiden bears the weapons of Thor himself.

OLD BEOWULF:
I would see what else this Valkyrie carries on her back. Some wings perhaps? To meet the dragon in the skies.

SALLY:
Tell us about this dragon.

OLD BEOWULF:
Wiglaf – your father was the tale-teller.

WIGLAF:
I have not inherited his way with words… (SUSPICIOUS) But I am surprised they do not know already.

SALLY:
The… news hasn't reached Valhalla yet.

WIGLAF:
The dragon ravages these lands without mercy. It flies in from its lair on the cliffs. It cuts the air, raining fire from its mouth. Its roar is a terrible thing. Few who hear it survive.

OLD BEOWULF:
First we knew was when it fired my Hall five days ago. Since then, my thanes have all deserted. All but Wiglaf.

WIGLAF:
At least the monster seared the skin from their backs as they fled.

HEX:
That's a bit harsh. No-one deserves that.

WIGLAF:
This is my world. If you do not like it (FX: UNSHEATHS SWORD) here is the way to the next.

SALLY:
There's no need for-

OLD BEOWULF:
Wiglaf! Let them speak.

SALLY:
Thank you, your majesty. I'm sorry to hear of your troubles. We came here looking for our friend. The Doctor. Dragons are probably right up his alley.

OLD BEOWULF:
I have met one like you before, Shieldmaiden. Many years ago. One of the Aesir. She also sought a 'Doctor'.

WIGLAF:
My father spoke of this. Across the seas, in the Hall of Hrothgar of the Danes.

OLD BEOWULF:
Indeed. I had just wrestled the demon Grendel.

HEX:
Grendel? I've heard that name.

SALLY:
Of course, Hex… The book! The story the Doctor was talking about. (TO BEOWULF) Your Majesty — you're Beowulf!

(FX: CROSSFADE TO:)

SCENE 50: INT. HART'S HALL

(FX: CHAIRS, MUGS, PLATES FALLING. ROWDY WARRIORS, ACE DODGING ABOUT)

NORSEMEN:
(WILDTRACK THROUGH FOLLOWING) Get her! Catch her!

YOUNG BEOWULF:
Unferth, are you so slow a woman slips through your grasp?

ACE:
(RUNNING) It's more that I'm so fast…

YOUNG BEOWULF:
Hold. Hold, men. Do not let this she-wolf reach the door.

ACE:
I'm not trying to reach the door. (FX: TAKING SWORD FROM WALL) I'm trying to reach one of the big pointy swords you've left hanging around on the wall.

UNFERTH:
Now the wench has a weapon!

ACE:
I told you. Don't 'wench' me, bumfluff-boy, not if you don't want me to give you your first shave with a three-foot razor.

UNFERTH:
O-Odin save me!

ACE:
Well?!?

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(LAUGHS, BREAKING TENSION) Ha! This warrior woman has spirit! (TO NORSEMEN) Back, you rabble! Back!

ACE:
(LOWERING WEAPON) Smart move, beardy.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
Be-ardy? Who is Be-ar-dee? You should know, girl. My name is Be-owulf!

ACE:
Beowulf? You're why the Doctor came here!

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(CHUCKLING) We have seen many strange visitors these last few nights. You are the most amusing.

ACE:
This is gonna sound like a strange question – but, have you seen a tall black box appear from nowhere?

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(SUDDENLY SERIOUS) Men! We have had our sport. Return to the King's tower. Tell Weohstan I await him.

(FX: NORSEMEN LEAVING HALL)

YOUNG BEOWULF:
Out! (SHOUTING) Out! (THREATENING) I'll finish this alone.

ACE:
(WORRIED) What did I say?

(FX: FLASHBACK WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 51: INT. BLACK TARDIS — CONTROL ROOM [FLASHBACK]

(FX: TARDIS HUM)

DOCTOR:
'The Traveller will see the end of his path…' (SCRUNCHING PAPER) Oh, Nostradamus. There's no profit in prophecy. There's always a choice to be made.

(FX: PUSHING LEVERS)

DOCTOR:
But destruction is unavoidable. Death is inevitable.

(FX: FLICKING SWITCHES)

DOCTOR:
(DARK) There are always sacrifices. We don't all make it through…

(FX: TIMID BEEPS)

DOCTOR:
(BRIGHTER) But… that's a long way off. First, I need some further information.

(FX: EXCITED BEEPS)

DOCTOR:
Yes, Earth. 2020. The Bluefire Project. Who knows what we'll find there?

(FX: DEMATERIALISATION. REVERSE WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 52: EXT. BEOWULF'S RUINED HALL [CONTINUOUS]

HEX:
So, when was it? That you met this other Valkyrie?

OLD BEOWULF:
Fifty years ago.

SALLY:
(DISBELIEVING) How old were you? Two? You don't look fifty now.

OLD BEOWULF:
Is this another enchantment? You look in a man's face and tell the number of his years?

HEX:
How about- how many winters have passed?

OLD BEOWULF:
More than can be counted upon a man's fingers. So, fifty. This is what Weohstan always told me.

SALLY:
Technically, it's eleven, but we'll let that pass.

OLD BEOWULF:
Wiglaf knows the tale. He has heard it often enough.

WIGLAF:
My father travelled with Lord Beowulf for many years, seeking fortune and adventure. They crossed the sea to the land of the Danes, of King Hrothgar, where a demon terrorised the people. For years, the brute plagued Hart's Hall. Its rage was swift and cruel. It ate men whole, leaving nothing behind. King Hrothgar despaired. [His kinsmen and his thanes had all tried to fight the beast, but none prevailed. This spawn of hell destroyed any sword, and the strongest mail offered no defence. At last, Lord Beowulf and his men arrived at the coast. The watchmen challenged him, but he made clear his intent to pay respects to the King. And to do him honour by ridding him of this evil.]

(FX: OVER THE LATTER PART OF WIGLAF'S SPEECH:)

SALLY:
(SOTTO) Hex, I think we overshot. We're about fifteen years off. And a good few hundred miles, from the sound of it.

HEX:
(SOTTO) Fifteen years, or fifty – doesn't make much difference. If that's where Ace and Lysandra are, it might as well be a lifetime ago.

OLD BEOWULF:
Valkyrie! Pay attention. This is the good part.

WIGLAF: (CONTINUOUS)
They marched to the hall, and Lord Beowulf prepared to do battle…

(FX: CROSSFADE TO:)

SCENE 53: INT. HART'S HALL

YOUNG BEOWULF:
What do you know of the black doors?

ACE:
That, er… they bring the sound of the wind rushing down from Olympus? Hang on. Wrong gods. A big wind anyway.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
How do you know this?

ACE:
Because that's where I'm from.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(UNSURE) Ha. You… mock.

ACE:
And here they are. (FX: JUMPING DOWN, RUNNING OVER TO COVERED TARDIS) Under these skins — (FX: UNCOVERS TARDIS)

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(GASPS) It is a sign. The black gates appeared there before I fought the demon. My victory summoned you?

ACE:
Yeah. I'm here to… congratulate you. Er. Well done. (BEAT) Better still — (WHISPERS) I can open the doors.

(FX: TARDIS DOORS OPENING. HUM OF CONTROL ROOM — OFF)

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(AWED) This is truly the Hall of the Gods. Is it my time? Am I to enter Valhalla?

ACE:
Nah. Just a preview, mush. Your time's not up yet.

(FX: TARDIS DOORS CLOSING)

YOUNG BEOWULF:
No. I am not worthy. If you came from there, then you know my shame. (WHISPERS) When I heard the breath of the Gods, when the Black Doors appeared… I ran. When I returned, they were gone. And the fiend had arrived.

ACE:
You were scared. But you came back. That's the brave bit.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
Who are you? Brunhild, returned from legend?

ACE:
No, I'm Ace.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
Aesir? You are of the Gods? (DROPPING TO KNEES) Could you be… Lord Odin's consort, great F-[rigga]

ACE:
Nah. Just Ace. Get up, beardy. You've some questions to answer. You're in charge round here, right?

YOUNG BEOWULF:
No, my home is over the sea. I have no kingdom. I came to pay respects to King Hrothgar.

ACE:
(PICKING UP GOBLET) And you've been on the mead. Celebrating.

(FX: APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS)

YOUNG BEOWULF:
I did defeat a demon.

WEOHSTAN:
(ENTERING) Lord Beowulf. The men said you'd found a… companion.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
This is Ace. She came through the black gates. See. (AWED WHISPER) The way to Asgard.

WEOHSTAN:
(SUSPICIOUS) Indeed. Hart's Hall is most honoured to be visited by gods and monsters this night.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
Weohstan is a wordsmith. He tells the tale better than a humble warrior.

ACE:
Don't bother. I think I know this one. This monster whatsisname's been terrorising the king's hall for years.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
Years? 'Tis not one moonspan since we came to these shores.

WEOHSTAN:
(SOTTO) Years would work well. Lend some scale.

ACE:
Anyway. You fought it. Took off its arm, right?

YOUNG BEOWULF:
'Twas but a hand.

WEOHSTAN:
(SOTTO) 'Arm' sounds better. (ALOUD) King Hrothgar has our trophy. We shall return it to our own shore.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
To present to my kinsman, King Hygelac.

ACE:
A souvenir? Beats a straw donkey and a bottle of duty free, I suppose. What was the monster's name? (BEAT) Grendel! That's it.

WEOHSTAN:
(SUSPICIOUS) Gren-del? (FX: DRAWING SWORD) What know you of Grendel? (SHOUTING) Thorvin! Hondscio! Now!

(FX: NORSEMEN RUSH IN)

NORSEMEN:
My lord!

WEOHSTAN:
'Tis as I suspected. The witch tries her magic on our leader. Seize her!

(FX: NORSEMEN GRAB ACE)

NORSEMEN:
Got her! Hold her!

ACE:
Gerroff!

YOUNG BEOWULF:
Weohstan, are you sure? I saw Valhalla with my own eyes.

WEOHSTAN:
I am sure, my Lord. There is but one reason this woman would know the creature's name. Because she bore it. Behold! Grendel's mother!

ACE:
(OUTRAGED) Hang on!

SCENE 54: INT. BEOWULF'S RUINED HALL

WIGLAF:
Beowulf met the monster in single combat. No weapon. No armour. It was no match. Beowulf bore his trophy back across the ocean. Behold. It hangs here, in the hall.

SALLY:
Where?

WIGLAF:
(INTERRUPTING) There! Above the throne!

HEX:
(SHOCKED) No. Oh no.

OLD BEOWULF:
'Tis as the lad tells it, Valkyrie. I tore off the fiend's right arm.

SALLY:
But- but that's not an arm! It's not even a hand. It's-

HEX:
It's a sonic screwdriver. The Doctor's sonic screwdriver.

OLD BEOWULF:
The next day I returned, and took the devil's head.

END OF PART TWO

PART THREE

REPRISE:

WIGLAF:
(INTERRUPTING) There! Above the throne!

HEX:
(SHOCKED) No. Oh no.

OLD BEOWULF:
'Tis as the lad tells it, Valkyrie. I tore off the fiend's right arm.

SALLY:
But- but that's not an arm! It's not even a hand. It's-

HEX:
It's a sonic screwdriver. The Doctor's sonic screwdriver.

OLD BEOWULF:
The next day I returned, and took the devil's head.

(CONTINUES INTO:)

SCENE 55: INT. BEOWULF'S RUINED HALL [CONTINUOUS]

HEX:
You maniac! You killed the Doctor!

OLD BEOWULF:
I still have it somewhere…

WIGLAF:
In the chest, my Lord. Beneath your throne.

OLD BEOWULF:
Help me, Wiglaf. Shift this stone… (FX: SCRAPING STONE AS THEY MOVE SLAB THROUGH:)

SALLY:
Of course. That's why the TARDIS went crazy.

HEX:
That's why it died. It knew.

(FX: OPENING CHEST)

OLD BEOWULF:
Ah, my treasures.

WIGLAF:
(TAKING OUT WARBOT HEAD) Here. It has weight still!

OLD BEOWULF:
See, boy — the creature's head.

HEX:
Thanks, but I don't wanna see my friend's head, you sicko —

SALLY:
Hex. Look. *Look!*

HEX:
Oh my — [God].

SCENE 56: INT. HART'S HALL

ACE:
(STRUGGLING) Beowulf! Call your gorillas off!

WEOHSTAN:
An immortal has nothing to fear from earthly weapons.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
I've seen, Weohstan. She has shown me the Hall of Odin himself.

WEOHSTAN:
Then she must be a powerful enchantress indeed. Come to avenge her inhuman offspring.

ACE:
Just when we were getting somewhere…!

WEOHSTAN:
Take her. Hrothgar can spare a cell for the rest of the night.

ACE:
(BEING DRAGGED AWAY) What about the Doctor? Beowulf! Where is he? (AND SHE'S GONE)

YOUNG BEOWULF:
I do not know what to think.

WEOHSTAN:
The night has been long. 'Tis but a few hours till dawn. Rest, my friend. We'll see how god-like she looks in the light.

SCENE 57: INT. URODELIAN PODCRAFT

(FX: B/G GLOOPINESS – OCCASIONAL FIZZING OF DAMAGED CONTROLS)

GARUNDEL:
(FX: FADING UP AS ARISTEDES REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS) Wakey-wakey, sister. You slept through all the fun.

ARISTEDES:
(GROGGY) You- you shot me! With a – stun gun?

GARUNDEL:
I'm trying not to kill anyone if I can help it. Teleport's recharging, so I had to carry you all the way down here. That was a whole lotta no-fun. Someone's been skimping on the route marches.

ARISTEDES:
(PULLING RESTRAINTS) You've tied me up. In – what is this? Your spaceship?

GARUNDEL:
Home sweet home. Currently situated under a lake. A bijou little podcraft. Let me give you the tour. Your ropes, my gun, the hatch, that's it. (FX: LASER FIZZING) Mind the exposed laser. A little accident on impact…

ARISTEDES:
What's that? The big white egg-thing?

GARUNDEL:
Regenerative pod. Currently occupied. Hmm. Not met a Urodelian before, have you?

ARISTEDES:
I'm sure I'd remember if I had.

GARUNDEL:
We got this fabulous capacity for self-repair. Any damage at all, we grow back fingers, toes, whole limbs if needed. (RAISES ARM) This arm – five times. That little baby helps the process along.

ARISTEDES:
You said it was occupied. An injured crew member?

GARUNDEL:
Oh no. I'm all on my lonesome. Little fella in there took some damage. I helped him out.

ARISTEDES:
You're a good Samaritan now? I don't quite believe that.

GARUNDEL:
Believe, sister. And your next question is – who's in the pod? Why, I do believe it's your little buddy. (BEAT, SERIOUS) The Time Lord.

SCENE 58: INT. HART'S HALL – DUNGEON CORRIDOR (OUTSIDE CELL)

(FX: HAMMERING ON HEAVY WOODEN DOOR)

ACE:
(BEHIND DOOR, SHOUTING) Oi! Someone! Get me out of here!

WEOHSTAN:
No-one will come. Mead grants deep slumber.

ACE:
(BEHIND DOOR) Who's that? Weohstan? I hope you're pleased with yourself.

WEOHSTAN:
I look to the welfare of my friend. Rumour is a powerful weapon… (FX: LIFTING DOOR BAR) But I'll rely on Wayland's Shield and my sword for now. Away from the door, girl.

(FX: DOOR OPENING – FOLLOW WEOHSTAN INTO CELL)

ACE:
The name's Ace.

WEOHSTAN:
Even the name you choose – Aesir – speaks of the Gods. Such is the power of words. The wrong words in the wrong place can destroy a man. And the right ones can be the making of him.

ACE:
You're not stupid. Let me out. I've got to find my friends.

WEOHSTAN:
There is but one reason you still live, 'Ace'. Tell me what you know of Grendel.

ACE:
It's your story. Thought you were the expert?

WEOHSTAN:
No, I mean the <u>real</u> Ga-rundel. The toad-man in the lake. Perhaps I am foolish to trust him. I want to know. Will he honour our bargain? Will he leave now the battle is done?

ACE:
Weohstan, mate. I'd love to help. But I haven't the faintest idea what you're on about.

WEOHSTAN:
A goddess should be all-knowing, should she not?

ACE:
Fair enough. But you wouldn't believe the truth if I told you. (BEAT) Who's this 'toad-man', anyway?

WEOHSTAN:
This land has proven stranger than even I foresaw.

ACE:
You're out of your depth. Keeping me locked up is not gonna help. Listen, I've a friend out there. She should be back by now. Something's going on. And the one person who could sort it all out is AWOL.

WEOHSTAN:
I also care about my friend.

ACE:
I can help.

WEOHSTAN:
Tell me. Will this Gar-undel end the attacks as promised?

ACE:
You're part of all this – aren't you, Weohstan?

WEOHSTAN:
People need their heroes, girl. The men love Lord Beowulf. They want to follow him.

ACE:
What are you? His PR?

WEOHSTAN:
You think the commoners here know Hrothgar is their king? No. They hear tell of the son of Halfdane, from the line of Shield Sheafson. Tales of his forefathers carried Hrothgar to the throne. The people set store in stories. The lords rally behind a hero.

ACE:
That's what you're doing for Beowulf?

WEOHSTAN:
A leader must make allies, gain experience. I am building a legend. Beowulf left his homeland as an adventurer. With Hrothgar's blessing, he will return as king-in-waiting.

ACE:
Does he get a say in all this? Or are you just manipulating him?

WEOHSTAN:
It is for the good of the people! They need a man like Beowulf to lead them. To unite them.

ACE:
You are manipulating him! (BEAT) You and the Doctor – you'd get on.

WEOHSTAN:
Again, you speak of a Doctor. I know no Doctor.

ACE:
Look. Beowulf seems like a good bloke. Big and dumb, but basically OK. Good luck to you. For what it's worth, I think you'll do alright. I just want to find my friends.

WEOHSTAN:
Not until I know how this story ends.

ACE:
You're trying to keep a lot of balls in the air, Weohstan. If there's a real monster out there, you need help.

WEOHSTAN:
Still you claim ignorance. Think on it, girl. Beowulf's tale may need the slaying of another monster – or a monster's mother. One way or another, you'll not see sunset.

(FX: WEOHSTAN EXITS, CLOSING DOOR AND DROPPING BAR)

ACE:
(BANGING DOOR, SHOUTING) Weohstan! You need me! Get me out of here!

SCENE 59: INT. URODELIAN PODCRAFT

(FX: B/G GLOOPINESS, FIZZING LASER))

ARISTEDES:
What do you know of Time Lords, Garundel?

GARUNDEL:
Oh, I've been around. You'd be surprised. Basic bodyscan showed up the two hearts. Respiratory bypass system. Extra ribs. Spare liver.

ARISTEDES:
What happened to him?

GARUNDEL:
Oooh, he got pretty beat up by that Warbot outside.

ARISTEDES:
How bad is it?

GARUNDEL:
Nothing a few weeks in my regenerative pod can't fix. Broken bones, fractured skull — no biggie.

(FX: KEYPAD & BEEPS AS GARUNDEL CHECKS POD READOUTS)

GARUNDEL:
In fact, he's cooking nicely. He'll be done sooner than expected.

ARISTEDES:
Then you're going to just let him go?

GARUNDEL:
What was it you called me? A 'good Samaritan'? I like that.

ARISTEDES:
You did say you didn't want to kill anyone…

GARUNDEL:
Oh that? Just a little wager between me and my eighty-two siblings. Whoever makes the most credits with the lowest kill-rate gets the keys to the Mothers-ship.

ARISTEDES:
(DISDAINFUL) Oh, so you're a mercenary.

GARUNDEL:
I prefer the term 'speculator'. 'Collector' even.

ARISTEDES:
What do you collect? Apart from broken robots…

GARUNDEL:
I'll have you know, lady, Xybrox tech is the most sought-after in this galaxy. On account of it being almost impossible to secure.

ARISTEDES:
You thought I was looking for it. Back there in the swamp. You're hiding!

GARUNDEL:
That Xybrox ain't coming after me anytime soon.

ARISTEDES:
But it will be coming, won't it?

GARUNDEL:
I knocked out its ship's systems. And the auto-repair bots. And the backup mainframe. Could be a week, could be a decade — but Xybrox are extremely antsy about other people playing with their toys. It'll come all right. But I'll be long gone by then.

ARISTEDES:
Where to? This doesn't look like a long-haul flyer.

GARUNDEL:
The Mothers are gonna be looping round the Milky Way for the next few decades. Rich pickings. I've sent a signal, but in the meantime I gotta get my hands dirty in local politics.

ARISTEDES:
Yes, you mentioned a 'local partner'?

GARUNDEL:
More a stooge. OK, a little unfair — he did drag me from a burning pod.

ARISTEDES:
Oh, right. So you crash-landed here?

GARUNDEL:
I admit, my ship experienced an uncharacteristic malfunction after the Xybrox sting. I finished up belly-up in the swamp. (FX: LASER FIZZ) With a busted control panel.

ARISTEDES:
So what about your rescuer?

GARUNDEL:
We came to an arrangement. There's a local King he wants to impress. I terrorise his hall with my Warbot. Vapourize a few apes. His buddy comes in and saves the day.

ARISTEDES:
And what do you get out of it?

GARUNDEL:
The, ah, spontaneous descent burnt out my reactor plates. What I need is inert metal plating. And what they've got here is-

ARISTEDES:
Gold.

GARUNDEL:
Which reminds me – (FX: DIGITAL BEEPING) – I've a meeting in ten minutes. (CONSIDERS) But you'd really like to know what happened to your Time Lord pal wouldn't you?

ARISTEDES:
Well what do you think?

GARUNDEL:
OK, so last night was gonna be the finale. One-to-one combat, beat the monster. I 'ported to the Hall and found a hidey-hole while the Warbot made its own way…

(FX: FLASHBACK WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 60: INT. HART'S HALL [FLASHBACK]

(FX: TARDIS MATERIALISATION THROUGH FOLLOWING)

YOUNG BEOWULF:
Gods. What is that sound…?

GARUNDEL:
(V/O) Trouble was, as soon as your guy's ship arrived, our so-called hero turned tail. I kept my head down…

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(SEEING TARDIS) Black doors. This is not just one demon. What horrors will spill from these gates?

(FX: TARDIS DOORS OPENING)

YOUNG BEOWULF:
They open…! (RUNNING AWAY, GOING OFF) Forgive me, Odin. I am not ready for this!

(FX: TARDIS DOOR OPENING)

DOCTOR: [FROM SC. 40]
(EXITING TARDIS) *Now then. Where are you hiding? … Right at the beginning? Buried in the middle, perhaps? Or are we at the end?*

(FX: DIALOGUE CONTINUES:)

DOCTOR:
(BEAT) Hmmm. Could do with a candle. I suppose that's why they call it the Dark Ages. (FEELING POCKETS) Matches… matches… Where did I put [them?]

(FX: TARDIS DOOR SLAMS – SPEEDED-UP DEMATERIALISATION)

DOCTOR:
Ah. Inconvenient. (BEAT) But first things first. (SEARCHING HALL) Beowulf. The wolf of war. Thor's wolf. The 'bee-wolf'. All too obvious. What are you calling yourself here? Van-a-gand-r? Loki? Or something else?

(FX: BUZZ OF SONIC SCREWDRIVER)

DOCTOR:
(WALKING) Have you hidden it in plain sight? A throne, a sword, a helmet, a…

(FX: DOORS CRASH OPEN AND WARBOT CLUNKS IN)

DOCTOR:
(SURPRISED) A Xybrox Warbot?

WARBOT:
(FX: HEAVILY MODULATED, MECHANISED) Target acquired.

DOCTOR:
Target? I think not, my friend.(FX: BUZZ OF SONIC SCREWDRIVER) Here, let me just –

(FX: FAST MECHANICAL MOVEMENT AS WARBOT SNATCHES SONIC)

WARBOT:
(FX: HEAVILY MODULATED, MECHANISED) Target disarmed.

DOCTOR:
That's not a weapon! Give it back!

WARBOT:
(FX: HEAVILY MODULATED, MECHANISED) Engage target.

DOCTOR:
No! Wait! (CRIES OUT)

(FX: FAST MECHANICAL SWIPES. ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, MORE – THE DOCTOR BEING THOROUGHLY DONE IN. CRASHING AGAINST TABLE, CHAIRS, SMASHING POTTERY)

Ah! … Ugh! … Gah! … Oof! [ETC]

(THROUGH THIS:)

GARUNDEL:
(FX: REMOTE CONTROL BEEPS) (EMERGING FROM HIDING) Whoah, whoah whoah! Stop! Stop! Whoever he is, he doesn't need the full treatment! … Stop!!!

(FX: DOCTOR THUDS INTO STONE FIREPLACE – CRUNK! WARBOT STOPS MOVING)

All done now? (WALKING TO DOCTOR) Eurgh, there's juice. … (TO DOCTOR) Sorry about the Warbot, fella, reckon it must've been set to 'maim and mangle'. (BEAT) Who are you?

DOCTOR:
(WEAK) Too soon. I… need… the boss.

GARUNDEL:
(CHECKING VITALS) Breathing – shallow. Pulse… hmm. That's odd.

DOCTOR:
(WEAK) The boss… from the Forge. Tell them… I'm sorry. (SLUMPS)

GARUNDEL:
OK, so you're not going anywhere. Lemme reset this baby. (FX: MECHANICAL CLUNKS AS WARBOT RESET)

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(OFF – APPROACHING) Monster! I hear you. Whatever you are, I am prepared to face you now!

GARUNDEL:
(TO SELF) Good boy. (TO DOCTOR) Now, my strangely-vasculatured friend, let's get you back to my pod.

(FX: ZIP OF TELEPORT. REVERSE WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 61: INT. URODELIAN PODCRAFT

(FX: FADE UP B/G GLOOPINESS & FIZZING LASER)

GARUNDEL:
Used up my teleport charge to get back. And the Warbot did its thing. Hairy apeman had his fight, took his trophy – along with your guy's sonic gizmo. The Warbot smashed its way out and – well, you know the rest.

ARISTEDES:
That's all he said? 'I'm sorry.'

GARUNDEL:
And the 'boss from the Forge' stuff.

ARISTEDES:
(SOTTO, UNSURE) I suppose that must be me.

GARUNDEL:
As last words go, pretty meh. So it's a good job they won't be. (MOVING OFF) OK. Time's a-pressing, sister. I gotta go see a man about a god.

ARISTEDES:
(CALLING) You're not just leaving me tied up?

(FX: ARISTEDES STRUGGLES AGAINST BONDS)

GARUNDEL:
(LEAVING) Try not to wreck the joint while I'm away. Any more than it already is. And mind that laser! (HE'S GONE)

ARISTEDES:
Don't worry, I will! (SHIFTS HERSELF AROUND; TO SELF) Mind it so carefully while I'm using it to burn through these ropes. (FX: BUZZ OF LASER, CUTTING RESTRAINTS THROUGH:) Cos unlike you, my Urodelian friend, I can't just grow back anything that gets cut off…

SCENE 62: INT. HART'S HALL – DUNGEON (INSIDE CELL)

(FX: HEAVY FOOTSTEPS OUTSIDE CELL)

ACE:
Hello? (BEAT) Is someone there? (BEAT) Weohstan? That you again?

(FX: DOOR BAR REMOVED & FOOTSTEPS QUICKLY RECEDE)

ACE:
Hello?

(FX: TENTATIVELY TRIES DOOR, OPENS & EXITS CELL)

ACE:
Blimey. (BEAT) Well, I'm not playing orthodontist to the gift-horse… (HEADING OFF) Thanks, whoever you were…

SCENE 63: EXT. FENS

(FX: SQUELCHING)

WEOHSTAN:
(STAGE WHISPER) Gar-endel! I have the payment.

GARUNDEL:
Right on time. (STEPPING FORWARD) Nice effort with the name. See, politeness costs nothing. Terrorising a kingdom however, that'll come in at around ten kilos of gold.

WEOHSTAN:
(HANDING OVER BAG) The King's gratitude is boundless. There are horses to be had. Jewels. Fine swords and armour too. Are these coins really all you want?

GARUNDEL:
(TAKING BAG) Gold's all I asked for and gold's all I want. I got my vices, but one thing I can never be accused of is greed, my hairy little friend. (FX: JINGLING GOLD COINS AS HE LOOKS IN BAG) Hmm, little more… 'bitty' than I'd hoped. But hey, I can work with this.

WEOHSTAN:
(TENTATIVE) Is… our business concluded?

GARUNDEL:
Sure is, Weohstan old buddy. Go. Good luck with the whole… king thing.

WEOHSTAN:
That is all, man of the marshes? You need no other sacrifice?

GARUNDEL:
Well, if you're offering. I'll take your firstborn!

WEOHSTAN:
(TAKEN ABACK) My- my son, Wiglaf. He is far from here. I — I cannot, I could not- He is not eight summers old…

GARUNDEL:
Oh, I'm kidding you! Get away, you gullible old hairball, you.

WEOHSTAN:
(DEPARTING) Fare well, toad-man. Gar-endel. I will remember you!

GARUNDEL:
(CALLING) And your memory will stay with me. (SOTTO) As long as your body odour clings to this bag. Ew.

(FX: WALKING THROUGH MARSH, TOSSING BAG OF GOLD)

GARUNDEL:
(TO HIMSELF) Now, I gotta a whole new venture in mind. But I first I gotta find that bust-up Warbot…

SCENE 64: INT. URODELIAN PODCRAFT

(FX: B/G GLOOPINESS)

ARISTEDES:
(TRYING POD CONTROLS) Doctor? Can you hear me in this pod thing? Thing is, I can't open it. Must be time-locked. (BEAT; TO SELF) He's trapped.

(FX: FLASHBACK WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 65: INT. BLACK TARDIS – CONTROL ROOM [FLASHBACK]

(FX: TARDIS ENGINES STUTTERING)

DOCTOR:
Question. When is a trap not a trap?

ARISTEDES:
(FROM UNDER CONSOLE, FIDDLING WITH MECHANICS) What?

DOCTOR:
A little slower with the dimensional dampers.

(FX: ARISTIDES ADJUSTS MECHANICS. MORE STUTTERING)

ARISTEDES:
(UNDER CONSOLE, ANNOYED) Ah! Thought I had it that time.

DOCTOR:
She needs coaxing, not pummelling. Don't you, old girl?

ARISTEDES:
(GETTING UP) You're distracting me with riddles. We're supposed to be training. You could at least put your book down.

DOCTOR:
'The Tale of Beowulf'. An engrossing read.

ARISTEDES:
Business or pleasure?

DOCTOR:
You can really get the measure of a man from the stories told about him.

ARISTEDES:
So what does that make you, Doctor? I've seen the files in the Forge.

DOCTOR:
I never read reviews. Besides. It's not the opinion of the human race that matters at the moment.

ARISTEDES:
Really?

DOCTOR:
No. What we're doing is for the benefit of certain… higher powers.

ARISTEDES:
You're making a reputation for yourself?

DOCTOR:
I have several reputations, depending on whom you talk to.

ARISTEDES:
So who should I be talking to? Let me guess, these 'Elder Gods' we've been tracking? (SLOWLY) You want them to think you mean business, don't you?

DOCTOR:
Think of it as… a declaration of intent.

ARISTEDES:
Or of war?

DOCTOR:
Wars need soldiers. Wars have casualties.

ARISTEDES:
What exactly is it you're planning, Doctor?

DOCTOR:
I will tell you, Lysandra. (SOTTO) I'll tell you all… (ALOUD) … but only when the time is right.

ARISTEDES:
That's the trouble. It's never the right time.

DOCTOR:
You've seen these creatures. You know how dangerous they are.

ARISTEDES:
You want them to think you're the same. On a mission. To wipe them out.

DOCTOR:
That should get their attention. Yes.

ARISTEDES:
Then they'll try and stop you.

DOCTOR:
Which brings me back to my question. When is a trap not a trap?

ARISTEDES:
I give up.

DOCTOR:
When it's an-ticipated.

(FX: WHOOSH BACK TO:)

SCENE 66: INT. URODELIAN PODCRAFT

ARISTEDES:
(FX: KNOCKING ON HOLLOW SHELL) Well, you didn't anticipate this, did you Doctor? OK, so here's my plan. Garundel's got a teleport, right? So —

(FX: PICKING UP AND RUMMAGING THROUGH BACKPACK)

ARISTEDES:
… somewhere in my backpack, there's a teleport-tracker… (FINDS IT) Ah-ha!

(FX: AFFIXING TELEPORT RECEIVER TO POD SURFACE; MAGNETIC CLUNK)

ARISTEDES:
Yeah, all this and the kitchen sink, Ms McShane. (EXITING PODCRAFT) Catch up with you later, Doctor. Don't go anywhere, will you?

SCENE 67: INT. BEOWULF'S RUINED HALL

(FX: FADE UP:)

REPRISE FROM SCENE 55:

OLD BEOWULF:
See, boy — the creature's head.

HEX:
Thanks, but I don't wanna see my friend's head, you sicko —

SALLY:
Hex. Look. Look!

HEX:
Oh my — [God].

(FX: SCENE CONTINUES:)

SALLY:
It's from some sort of robot.

HEX:
OK. So Beowulf here didn't kill the Doctor. He's still a psycho, though.

SALLY:
Your majesty — where did you get this?

OLD BEOWULF:
It belonged to creature with iron skin, one with the strength of twenty men. I faced it alone.

SALLY:
Can I… take it?

WIGLAF:
My lord, Should we allow-

OLD BEOWULF:
(FX: HANDING WARBOT HEAD OVER) Here, Valkyrie. Mind, 'tis heavier than it looks.

SALLY:
(TAKING IT) Thank you, sire. Hex, this thing is completely dead.

HEX:
Well, yeah, obviously —

SALLY:
Think! If we could get it working, the Doctor might be able to home in on it.

HEX:
Anachronistic technology, I get you!

OLD BEOWULF:
'Doctor'. Ace spoke of this Doctor, too.

HEX:
Please, your Maj. What happened to Ace?

WIGLAF:
(ASIDE, TO BEOWULF) Sire. We should prepare. The dragon does not rest for long.

SALLY:
My lord, was there another Shieldmaiden, too? One dressed like me?

OLD BEOWULF:
(TRYING TO REMEMBER) Oh, it was all so long ago…

SALLY:
Believe me, you'd remember Captain Aristedes.

WIGLAF:
There is a time for story-telling. This is not it. My shield lies out in the field. And our rations. Naegling too.

HEX:
'Naegling'? Is that another of your men?

WIGLAF:
King Beowulf's sword. (BECOMING SUSPICIOUS) Another tale not reached Valhalla? You will tell me next you have never heard of Wayland's Shield!

OLD BEOWULF:
Go, Wiglaf. I will follow.

WIGLAF:
Soon, my Lord. Please. (EXITS HALL)

OLD BEOWULF:
So like his father. Weohstan did not trust Ace. I could see her for what she was though. A warrior. I thought her… comely. (BEAT) Oh, and she proved true. Fought like a she-wolf. Right to the end.

HEX:
What do you mean, ‘the end’?

WIGLAF:
(OFF, OUTSIDE) My Lord. Come! See! More enchantment.

OLD BEOWULF:
Perhaps Wiglaf is right. The time for tales is gone. I was never much good at them anyway. (EXITS HALL)

SALLY:
Hex, I’m worried about the others. I’m starting to think maybe they’re the ones who ended up in the wrong place.

HEX:
Still doesn’t explain why that robot had the Doctor’s sonic. You know what though? What you said before about the head. If we want technology for him to trace…

SALLY:
Of course! The screwdriver!

HEX:
Think you can get it off the wall? I’ll give you a leg up…

(FX: STANDS ON THRONE, LIFTING SALLY TO REACH SCREWDRIVER)

SALLY:
(PULLING) These rings are rammed right into the stone. There’s a laser-knife in the front of my pack.

HEX:
Course there is. (FX: SEARCHING PACK) This it?

SALLY:
Yeah (FX: LASER KNIFE – CONTINUOUS) It’ll take a little while to burn through.

HEX:
OK, I’m gonna see what got Mr Happy excited. (BEAT) Sal?

SALLY:
Yeah?

HEX:
It’ll be alright, you know. Honest.

SALLY:
You don’t have to protect me, Hex. But it’s sweet of you to try.

SCENE 68: EXT. BEOWULF'S RUINED HALL

(FX: TRANSPARENT TARDIS HUMS)

OLD BEOWULF:
(APPROACHING) What now, Wiglaf? Jumping at your own shadow?

WIGLAF:
(AWED WHISPER) My Lord. It is a spirit. White and shimmering. My blade passes straight through.

OLD BEOWULF:
(SEEING TARDIS) No!

WIGLAF:
Your countenance, sire. As pale as the apparition itself.

OLD BEOWULF:
I have seen such a thing before. The gates to Asgard…

WIGLAF:
In Hrothgar's Hall?

OLD BEOWULF:
Then, their appearance augured great victories. The difference is – those gates were black.

WIGLAF:
And these are white. If the black gates lead to Asgard, then where should these go?

HEX:
(APPROACHING) Oh, you've found our TARDIS.

WIGLAF:
(ADVANCING WITH SWORD) You admit this is from whence you came?

HEX:
Put the sword away, Wiglaf. (TO BEOWULF) Tell him, your Maj!

OLD BEOWULF:
I am afraid, boy, that we may have mistaken demons for gods.

HEX:
Aw, c'mon…!

WIGLAF:
(FORCING HEX AT SWORDPOINT) Back inside the hall, knave. I'll put you and that daughter of Loki to the blade.

SCENE 69: INT. BEOWULF'S RUINED HALL

(FX: SONIC SCREWDRIVER BUZZ – FOOTSTEPS AS HEX, BEOWULF, WIGLAF ENTER)

SALLY:
(BUSY WITH SONIC) Hex, it's working! I'll turn it up to max.

(FX: SONIC BUZZ GETS HIGHER)

WIGLAF:
Drop your wand, witch.

SALLY:
(SEEING HEX AT SWORDPOINT – SHUTS OFF SONIC) What's going on?

HEX:
They saw the TARDIS and freaked.

OLD BEOWULF:
Can it be true, Valkyrie? Have you deceived us?

SALLY:
Your Majesty. We mean you no harm. Hex saved you from the fire.

WIGLAF:
A ruse to win our trust. Are you seeking to steal the King's treasure for your Master? (ADVANCING ON SALLY) I will test your mortality.

HEX:
Get away from her! (FX: STRUGGLE BETWEEN HEX & WIGLAF. HEX KNOCKED TO FLOOR)

WIGLAF:
(RAISING SWORD) Ha! I shall send you to the next world, boy!

SALLY:
No!

OLD BEOWULF:
(SHOUTS) Stay your arm, Wiglaf! We can't be sure. The girl's words are not untrue. I would not wish to offend the gods before a battle. (FRUSTRATED) Agh! I cannot think of these things now.

OLD BEOWULF:
Bind them with ropes, Wiglaf. We'll decide their fate after the fight.

WIGLAF:
Unless the dragon decides for us all.

SCENE 70: INT. HART'S HALL

(FX: NORSEMEN SNORING OFF, SLEEPING OFF MEAD. DOOR CREAKS OPEN)

ARISTEDES:
(SOTTO, CREEPING IN) Let's let sleeping Vikings lie, shall we…?

(FX: CLOSES DOOR BEHIND)

ACE:
(FROM HIDING) Call that twenty minutes, Lysandra?

ARISTEDES:
(JUMPING) Ace! Where've you been?

ACE:
(STEPPING FORWARD) Well, so far I've had a fight, been captured, locked up, and escaped. I was on my way back to the TARDIS when I heard you stomping around like a herd of elephants. Thought I'd best nip behind a tapestry. You know, in case it was a herd of elephants.

ARISTEDES:
You're not funny. (FAUX-INNOCENT; KEEPING SCHTUM) So, er — no sign of the Doctor, then?

ACE:
No. But I've met Beowulf. I reckon that's who he was coming to see. No idea why, though. How about you, you seen any sign?

ARISTEDES:
Not exactly. There's alien activity, though. Some extraterrestrial interfering with history. Just the Doctor's sort of thing.

ACE:
That figures. Beowulf's mate's got it in for me, and he's up to his neck in something. Come on. Let's get back to the TARDIS.

ARISTEDES:
OK. Quietly though. We don't want to wake the Vikings.

ACE:
(MOVING FORWARD, BLASÉ) It's alright, they're dead to the world. I wonder what percent proof that mead of theirs is?

ARISTEDES:
(GRABBING HER) Still no need to take unnecessary risks.

ACE:
You know what, Lysandra, I've just about had it with you telling me what to do. You've been with the Doctor for, what? —

five minutes? And you think you've got a better way of doing everything! Well, me and the Professor go back years-

ARISTEDES:
Ace, this isn't about you and your friend romping through time and space. This is-

(FX: ZIP OF TELEPORT AS GARUNDEL ARRIVES)

GARUNDEL:
Surprise! (BEAT) Ooh. Am I interrupting something?

ARISTEDES:
Garundel. (SUSPICIOUS) What, you're not surprised to see me?

GARUNDEL:
Puh-lease. You think I didn't drop enough hints about the laser? I let you escape. So I could follow the tracker I put in your backpack.

ARISTEDES:
Tracker?

ACE:
(SARCASTIC) Well done, Captain.

GARUNDEL:
Who's your friend-in-need-of-a-makeover? Don't bother to answer, I don't actually care.

ACE:
I'm Ace.

GARUNDEL:
Course you are, sweetheart. And I'm fabulous, thanks for asking.

ACE:
What do you want, Kermit? (TO ARISTIDES) This the alien activity you were on about, Lysandra?

ARISTEDES:
Yes. (TO GARUNDEL) Thought you'd be busy fixing your ship. And leaving?

GARUNDEL:
The fixing bit's done. But it occurred to me that you must have gotten here somehow. With our mutual friend in stasis, I put two and two hearts together.

ACE:
What 'mutual friend'?

GARUNDEL:
Ooh. Do I take it that your associate hasn't apprised you of the Time Lord's situation?

ACE:
Lysandra-?!?

ARISTIDES:
I —

GARUNDEL:
Tut, tut. You two have some trust issues, dontcha? As I was saying. He's a Time Lord. Ergo, he must have a TARDIS. Forget Xybrox tech. Gallifreyan tech takes me into a whole different league.

(FX: APPROACHING CLUNKING OF WARBOT OUTSIDE)

ACE:
What's that?

GARUNDEL:
Just my little Warbot friend. Think we'd better rouse the natives from their slumbers, don't you? (FX: KICKING NORSEMEN)

ARISTIDES:
No — don't-!

NORSEMEN:
(WAKING GRUNTS AND GROANS) Uggh!/What?/What in Odin's name…?

ACE:
What are you playing at, frog-features?

GARUNDEL:
Wake up, little apemen! Wake up! Time to visit Valhalla!

(FX: WARBOT CRASHES THROUGH DOORS, CLANKING FORWARD)

NORSEMEN:
(ALARMED) A monster!/ An iron dragon!/ Odin preserve us!

WARBOT:
Multiple targets acquired. (FX: BEGINS ZAPPING)

UNFERTH:
Please, I'm too young and handsome to [die-] Aaargh! (KILLED)

HROTHULF:
(BACKING AWAY) I have jewels! I have daughters! I'll let you have my daughters — Aaaargh! (KILLED)

(FX: SCREAMS, CLANKS AND ZAPS AS NORSEMEN ARE VAPOURISED BY WARBOT THROUGH:)

GARUNDEL:
As you can see, the Warbot's now in near perfect working order. Shame about the arm.

ACE:
Stop it! You're killing them!

GARUNDEL:
Not me, my unkempt friend. Blame the robot.

(FX: ALL NORSEMEN ELIMINATED, WARBOT CLANKS TO A HALT)

GARUNDEL:
All done? Good.

ARISTEDES:
Alright, Garundel, you've made your point. What is it you want?

GARUNDEL:
I thought I'd made myself abundantly clear. Your TARDIS. But first I need rid of the passengers. (DRAWING HIS BLASTER) Don't worry sister, this time the blaster's set to kill. It'll ruin my scoresheet, but hey. Some things are worth the price.

SCENE 71: INT. BEOWULF'S RUINED HALL

(FX: WIND WHISTLING – ROAR OF XYBROX JETS BUILDING AS IT SWOOPS ABOUT IN DISTANCE, GETTING CLOSER THROUGH:)

SALLY:
(SQUIRMING IN ROPES) Ow. Hex! That's my arm again.

HEX:
(STRUGGLING) Sorry. These ropes are pretty tight. You remembered to do the thing when they tied them –

SALLY:
Tensing muscles to stretch the ropes? Yes. Part of the Doctor's basic training!

HEX:
(WORKING ON BONDS) We're a pretty good team, aren't we, Sal? I mean, we've got ourselves tied up together under sentence of death, but apart from that…

SALLY:
(PLAYFUL) Shut up, Hex.

HEX:
(STRUGGLING WITH ROPES) They're leather or something. Really dry. No give in them.

SALLY:
I'll try shifting this way…

(FX: TIED TOGETHER BACK TO BACK, THEY SHUFFLE ROUND)

SALLY:
Any better?

HEX:
Not really, but I can see through the hole in the roof now!

SALLY:
What's there?

HEX:
Mist. Some flashes – must be the forest fires.

(FX: SWOOPING JET SOUND GETS CLOSER)

SALLY:
What is that noise?

HEX:
I'm guessing that's the dragon.

SALLY:
When do you think they'll be back? Wiglaf and Beowulf?

HEX:
I dunno if they're gonna make it back. The King looked pretty beaten up. From the sound of that thing, a few arrows and a sword aren't gonna do much damage.

SALLY:
I liked him. There's something sad about him. I wonder… What happens at the end of the story? Do you know?

HEX:
Never read it. (BEAT) Whatever happens, I'm glad I met you, Sal.

SALLY:
Never say die, Hex.

HEX:
Thing is, Sal, I've had this feeling the last few weeks – like there's a guy with a scythe with my name on it? And all the time he's been getting closer and closer, and the swish of that scythe is getting nearer and nearer, [and]

(FX: SWOOP OF XYBROX JET – MUCH CLOSER – STOPS & HOVERS)

SALLY:
Now, *that* sounds closer. What can you see? Hex?

HEX:
It's just hanging there. I can make out – it's black and silver. It's no dragon. But it's… massive. Oh no. I think it's seen us.

SALLY:
Hex, what's it doing?

(FX: XYBROX JETS KICK IN)

HEX:
It's heading straight for us!

(FX: XYBROX HOWL – MONSTROUS AND MACHINE-LIKE – ROAR OF FLAME BLASTING THE HALL)

(MUSIC: CRASH IN CLOSING THEME)

END OF PART THREE

PART FOUR

REPRISE FROM SCENE 70:

ACE:
Stop it! You're killing them!

GARUNDEL:
Not me, my unkempt friend. Blame the robot.

(FX: ALL NORSEMEN ELIMINATED, WARBOT CLANKS TO A HALT)

GARUNDEL:
All done? Good.

ARISTEDES:
Alright, Garundel, you've made your point. What is it you want?

GARUNDEL:
I thought I'd made myself abundantly clear. Your TARDIS. But first I need rid of the passengers. (DRAWING HIS BLASTER) Don't worry sister, this time the blaster's set to kill. It'll ruin my scoresheet, but hey. Some things are worth the price.

(CONTINUES INTO:)

SCENE 72: INT. HART'S HALL

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(RUNNING IN) Demon! You came back for more! But I have been waiting for you!

GARUNDEL:
What in the name of blue heck-?

ACE:
Beowulf!

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(BATTLE CRY, CHARGING FORWARD) Yaaaa-!

(FX: CLANG OF SWORD ON WARBOT – REELS, WHIRRING)

ACE:
Beowulf! Mate! The bot's got a – fire-weapon!

YOUNG BEOWULF:
What is 'Bot' …?

ACE:
Duck!!!

(FX: ZAP OF WARBOT WEAPON – MISSES BEOWULF)

YOUNG BEOWULF:
Missed! (CHARGING AGAIN) Yaaa!

(FX: CLANG!)

GARUNDEL:
Slow, slow tech! Why won't it get up to speed?

ARISTEDES:
By the way, Garundel …?

GARUNDEL:
(DISTRACTED) Mm?

(FX: ARISTEDES PUNCHES GARUNDEL)

GARUNDEL:
(CRIES OUT AND DROPS BLASTER)

ARISTEDES:
I *am* military. So a second's distraction is all I need. Ace! His blaster!

ACE:
(SCRAMBLING FOR BLASTER) Gottit! (BEAT) Blimey, did you just take out Kermit with one punch?

ARISTIDES:
Never mind him. Shoot the warbot!

ACE:
Give us a chance, Lysandra!

(FX: FIRES AT WARBOT – SPARKS – GEARS PAINED)

ACE:
There, that's its laser taken out. (CALLING) All yours, Beardy!

(FX: FLURRY OF CLANGS ON METAL, STRAINING GEARS, THROUGH:)

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(FIGHTING, CALLING) I knew I was right to release you, Aesir!

ACE:
My cell… That was you?

YOUNG BEOWULF:
A test, was it not? (EFFORT – CLANG) Go, Valkyries, go! Return to Asgard! The way to your black door is clear!

ARISTEDES:
(CROSSING TO TARDIS) Ace! Come on!

ACE:
(FOLLOWING) Hold up, he might need help –

ARISTEDES:
(STOPS AT TARDIS) Yeah, I think we know how his story ends. –

ACE:
(REALISES GARUNDEL'S GONE) Hey, where's your green pal hopped off to?

ARISTEDES:
Garundel? He's just –

ACE:
(SMUG) Not such a great punch, after all.

ARISTIDES:
He dropped his teleport, he can't have gone far. (FX: OPENS TARDIS DOOR) Come on. Into the TARDIS.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
Do not fret, Aesir. One more blow will take this bot's head! Then I will go after the toad-man!

ACE:
Good luck, Beardy. (ENTERS TARDIS)

YOUNG BEOWULF:
I told you. My name is Beowulf! (SWINGS SWORD) Ha!

(FX: WARBOT'S HEAD CRASHES TO FLOOR)

SCENE 73: INT. BLACK TARDIS – CONTROL ROOM

(FX: TARDIS B/G HUM – ALERT SOUNDING)

ARISTEDES:
(RUSHING TO CONSOLE) Look, the TARDIS is homing in on something. It's got co-ordinates.

ACE:
(FOLLOWING) The Doctor. It's got to be!

ARISTEDES:
Ace, wait. There's something I need to-

ACE:
For once, Lysandra, forget your flaming procedure! Destination set! (PULLING DEMATERIALISATION LEVER) Let's go!

ARISTEDES:
Ace – no!

(FX: DEMATERIALISATION. FADE)

SCENE 74: INT. BEOWULF'S RUINED HALL

REPRISE FROM SCENE XX:

HEX:
It's just hanging there. I can make out — it's black and silver. It's no dragon. But it's… massive. Oh no. I think it's seen us.

SALLY:
Hex, what's it doing?

(FX: XYBROX JETS KICK IN)

HEX:
It's heading straight for us!

(FX: XYBROX HOWL — MONSTROUS AND MACHINE-LIKE — ROAR OF FLAME BLASTING THE HALL…)

(FX: … IS GRADUALLY DROWNED OUT BY TARDIS MATERIALISATION AS BLACK TARDIS APPEARS AROUND HEX AND SALLY — IE SLOW CROSSFADE TO TARDIS INTERIOR. THROUGH THIS:)

SALLY:
Hex! What's happening? Everything's fading away!

HEX:
No, Sal. We are!

(FX: MATERIALISATION STOPS, AND WE'RE BACK IN:)

SCENE 75: INT. BLACK TARDIS – CONTROL ROOM [CONTINUOUS]

(FX: B/G TARDIS HUM)

ACE:
Hiya, kids.

HEX:
You can open your eyes now, Sal.

SALLY:
Ace?

ARISTIDES:
Not interrupting anything, were we?

HEX:
Just getting incinerated. We were hoping to give it a miss anyway.

ACE:
(GOING TO UNTIE THEM) Here. Let's get you untied.

SALLY:
I didn't know you could fly the TARDIS like that, Captain!

ARISTEDES:
I can't. It took it upon itself to materialise around you.

ACE:
Not just around them – look. In the Library.

HEX:
Our White TARDIS!

ARISTEDES:
So, it didn't just save you. It saved its other self.

SCENE 76: EXT. EDGE OF FOREST

(FX: XYBROX JETS RECEDING TO DISTANCE)

WIGLAF:
Sire – look! The Hall! It's naught but rubble.

OLD BEOWULF:
(SADLY) Nothing could have survived that.

WIGLAF:
The dragon is gone. To the cliffs. You think it is done with us? Perhaps the strangers were the sacrifice it wanted?

OLD BEOWULF:
Hand me those arrows, Wiglaf. One thing we know about this beast. It always comes back.

SCENE 77: INT. BLACK TARDIS — CONTROL ROOM

(FX: B/G TARDIS HUM)

ARISTEDES:
(AT CONSOLE) If I'm reading this right, we're 200 miles east and sixteen years, three months on from where we were.

ACE:
Why's our TARDIS see-through, Hex? What have you done to it?

HEX:
Nothing! It just sorta… died. (SLOWLY) Maybe… maybe it's 'cos the Doctor has copped it?

ARISTEDES:
I've a feeling he's still very much alive.

SALLY:
He was definitely here. (GETTING SONIC FROM PACK) Look, we found his sonic screwdriver. (FX: SONIC BUZZ)

ACE:
(SNATCHING IT) Don't fiddle with that! (BEAT) Hey, maybe this is what the TARDIS homed in on!

HEX:
Oh, and there's some sort of fire-breathing robot monster on the loose.

ACE:
Business as usual then.

ARISTEDES:
The Xybrox. It must be.

SALLY:
The what?

ARISTEDES:
Cybernetic insect-hybrids. Engaged on several fronts around our galaxy, we assume. Our alien friend stole some of its technology. Evidently it's taken it this long to catch up.

SALLY:
How do you know that? They've been to Earth?

ARISTEDES:
Once or twice. We had a file at the Forge.

SALLY:
And now it’s napalming the country just to find some lost property?

ARISTEDES:
Or remove all trace of it. I don’t think it minds which.

HEX:
We can’t just leave them to it. That thing’s gonna toast ’em alive!

ACE:
Who?

HEX:
King Beowulf and his mate.

ARISTEDES:
We’ve things to do here, Schofield. The Doctor-

ACE:
Now you want to talk about the Doctor?

SALLY:
Captain, please. Hex is right. Don’t you see? This is what the Doctor would do.

ARISTIDES:
You don’t understand, Private.

ACE:
And you’ve been outvoted, Lysandra. Right, then — Sergeant Barbie, Nurse Ken: looks like we’ve got a dragon to slay!

SCENE 78: EXT. BEOWULF'S RUINED HALL

(FX: WIGLAF AND BEOWULF WALKING TOWARD RUINED HALL)

WIGLAF:
But sire, there's nothing left of the Hall. Why go back?

OLD BEOWULF:
I want to be certain. And I am not leaving my trophies.

(FX: BEOWULF STUMBLES, DROPS WEAPONS)

OLD BEOWULF:
(ANGRY) Agh! My shoulder!

WIGLAF:
(STOPPING) Here, sire, take my bread. It's been five days and nights. Constant attacks. Sleep snatched in minutes. It takes its toll even on the mighty Beowulf.

ACE:
(EMERGING FROM RUINED HALL) Always thought you were a wuss.

WIGLAF:
Hold! Who is that?

OLD BEOWULF:
Can it be…?

ACE:
Hello, Beardy.

HEX:
Thought you might need a hand against this dragon.

SALLY:
So we brought some friends.

ARISTEDES:
(FX: RELOADING RIFLE) With more effective weaponry.

WIGLAF:
But – the fire. The dragon destroyed the Hall. We saw it with our own eyes.

HEX:
Yeah. So did we. Up close, like. Thanks for that.

SALLY:
(QUICKLY) No hard feelings, though.

WIGLAF:
Then you truly must be… gods?

OLD BEOWULF:
(PLEASED) I knew it! You are too like your father, Wiglaf.

ACE:
Don't tell me, you're Weohstan's son?

WIGLAF:
You remember meeting my father?

ACE:
Like yesterday. He locked me up.

WIGLAF:
When was that?

ACE:
Yesterday.

OLD BEOWULF:
It is you. Truly you. Ace. The years have made no mark.

ACE:
Not looking bad yourself. Beard's a bit greyer though. What happened after we left?

WIGLAF:
Sire. The dragon. It could return at any time…

OLD BEOWULF:
Hush, Wiglaf.

(FX: FLASHBACK WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 79: EXT. LAKE/UNDERWATER [FLASHBACK]

(FX: YOUNG BEOWULF RUNNING THROUGH FENS)

OLD BEOWULF:
(V/O) The black gates faded and the iron beast was still. The toad-man did not hide his tracks. I traced his path through the reeds and mud to the lake. The water's edge was tangled with twisted roots, lit by an unearthly glow beneath. I knew that must be Grendel's lair, so –

(FX: SPLASH OF BEOWULF DIVING IN LAKE. UNDERWATER MOVEMENT – APPROACHING PULSING PODCRAFT)

OLD BEOWULF:
(V/O) Down, down, down I swam. Toward that blood-red fire burning in the lake. I found my way to his cave, and entered. I found the fiend cowering within…

SCENE 80: INT. URODELIAN PODCRAFT [FLASHBACK/CONTINUOUS]

(FX: B/G GLOOPINESS)

GARUNDEL:
(OUT OF BREATH) OK, big fella. You found me. Good job. Have a banana.

YOUNG BEOWULF:
(OUT OF BREATH) Your reign of terror is over, monster.

GARUNDEL:
(CATCHING BREATH) Just – gimme a minute. I need my – blaster. (REALISES IT'S LOST) Ah. It's back at the Hall, isn't it?

YOUNG BEOWULF:
Now. I shall deal with you as I dealt with your metal spawn.

GARUNDEL:
No! Not the face! Not-

(FX: SWIPE OF SWORD AND THUD OF GARUNDEL'S HEAD AND BODY HITTING FLOOR. REVERSE WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 81: EXT. BEOWULF'S RUINED HALL

ACE:
You killed Kermit?

OLD BEOWULF:
I sliced the brute's head from its shoulders. Then, exhausted, I swam back to the surface.

HEX:
You didn't bring his head home?

OLD BEOWULF:
I did not sully my hands with it.

ARISTEDES:
A little brutal. What did Weohstan have to say?

OLD BEOWULF:
Weohstan… his manner was strange. When I reached the lakeside, he was standing there. A strange light in his eyes. He did not speak, but dived down to the beast's lair also. Two days later we sailed for home with Hrothgar's blessing.

ARISTEDES:
Weohstan must have been upset at losing his friend.

WIGLAF:
What do you mean, Valkyrie? My father was a faithful servant. He was no 'friend' to monsters.

ARISTEDES:
Don't you get it? He set it up. The Warbot attacking the Hall. Beowulf getting the credit for stopping it. Weohstan made a nice little deal with Garundel. Only it sounds like it backfired.

ACE:
Lysandra. We don't need to do this now. (CHANGING SUBJECT) Wiglaf. The dragon's gonna come from the cliffs, right?

WIGLAF:
(CONFUSED) That- that is where it returns to.

ACE:
OK. Lysandra, Sally. Take your big guns to the other side of the hall for cover. You'll get a good shot at knocking it out of the sky when it comes back.

SALLY:
Yes, ma'am.

ARISTEDES:
Come on Morgan. Don't 'Ma'am' her. (LEAVES)

SALLY:
Yes ma'am. (LEAVING) No ma'am. Sorry, Captain.

HEX:
They'll be OK, won't they?

ACE:
They've got the easy bit. We're the ones who'll have to deal with it on the ground.

OLD BEOWULF:
(BROODING) Is it true, Aesir?

ACE:
Yeah. Don't worry, we've got plasma grenades and a neutron harpoon. If all else fails, there's Nitro-Nine-

OLD BEOWULF:
No. I mean Weohstan. He brought Grendel to Hrothgar's hall?

WIGLAF:
It cannot be, sire. It makes no sense.

ACE:
Beowulf, look. I'm not gonna lie. Yes. He arranged it. But he did it for you-

WIGLAF:
Sire-

OLD BEOWULF:
(INTERRUPTING) Don't you see, Wiglaf? How this changes things? I am no hero. My reign over Geatland – no, my whole life… All these years as King. They are founded on lies.

SCENE 82: EXT. BEOWULF'S RUINED HALL (OTHER SIDE)

(FX: READYING WEAPONS)

SALLY:
You OK, Captain?

ARISTEDES:
Let's get this done. Then we get back to sorting out the Doctor.

SALLY:
But we're no nearer finding him than when we got here.

ARISTEDES:
Actually, I'm very near.

SALLY:
What? Have you told the others?

ARISTEDES:
No, Private. Not yet. There are things I need to say. Things we both need to say.

SALLY:
What things?

ARISTEDES:
Think about it. Why did he keep us apart from them – Ace and Hex? All this time?

SALLY:
I –

(FX: FLASHBACK WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 83: INT. BLACK TARDIS — SALLY'S ROOM [FLASHBACK]

DOCTOR:
(KNOCKING) Sally.

SALLY:
Yes, Doctor?

DOCTOR:
About our new recruit. You will look after each other, won't you? Watch each other's backs?

SALLY:
Of course! That's how we're trained.

DOCTOR:
I won't always be around. Sometimes, I need to rely on soldiers.

ARISTEDES:
(KNOCKING ON OPEN DOOR) I've put my kit in the next room. — (BEAT) Why do I feel my ears burning?

SALLY:
We're just saying we're glad to have you aboard.

DOCTOR:
Not all my friends are as suited to the fight as you two. It's important you get along. Trust one another.

ARISTEDES:
Well. I'm glad to be here. Let's go and do some good.

DOCTOR:
Yes, let's.

(FX: REVERSE WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 84: EXT. BEOWULF'S RUINED HALL (OTHER SIDE)

(FX: XYBROX JET GETTING LOUDER)

SALLY:
Captain… Incoming.

ARISTEDES:
Yes, soldier. I hear it. Arms at the ready, Private… Aim…

SCENE 85: EXT. BEOWULF'S RUINED HALL

OLD BEOWULF:
I should never have been King.

WIGLAF:
None could rule better. The people love you-

OLD BEOWULF:
(ANGRY, INTERRUPTING) The people do not know me!

WIGLAF:
But they do, sire. From the stories.

OLD BEOWULF:
Pah. 'Stories' is just another word for lies!

ACE:
No. Stories are powerful. If people are gonna believe them, they've gotta be based on truth. Don't forget, I've seen you first hand. Fighting monsters.

HEX:
And running around with a broken shoulder. Don't think I haven't noticed.

OLD BEOWULF:
But Weohstan should have told me the truth!

ACE:
Would you have done anything different? Sometimes, it helps, not knowing everything.

HEX:
We know all about that.

WIGLAF:
My Lord. Geatland is surrounded by enemies. All these years, you have kept it safe. Held the borders on every side. The Swedish armies were not mythical beasts or monsters. You fought real battles. Forged real alliances. I do not know what would become of us without you…

(FX: XYBROX JETS APPROACHING)

HEX:
Hate to interrupt the history lesson, but…

ACE:
It's on its way. Come on, soldiers. Do your thing…

SCENE 86: EXT/INT. BEOWULF'S RUINED HALL (OTHER SIDE)

(FX: PULSE RIFLES DISCHARGING, XYBROX ROARS AS JETS FAIL AND PLUMMETS OFF IN DISTANCE)

SALLY:
Direct hit! It's coming down on the clifftop!

ARISTEDES:
Excellent shooting, Morgan. Now, come on. (ENTERS RUINS)

SALLY:
(CONFUSED) Come on-?

ARISTEDES:
To our TARDIS.

SALLY:
But… shouldn't we be helping the others?

ARISTEDES:
They've enough weapons to stop an army of Xybrox. I saw Ace in action back in London – she's more than capable. No, Private. We've an appointment with the Doctor.

SCENE 87: EXT. CLIFFTOP

(FX: FALLING XYBROX JETS APPROACHING AND CRASHING NEARBY)

ACE:
(RUNNING) Come on! It came down on the clifftop!

HEX:
(RUNNING) I can't believe we're actually running towards the monster.

ACE:
(RUNNING) Hex, we've got a neutron harpoon!

HEX:
(RUNNING) Which does what, exactly?

ACE:
(RUNNING) No idea, but it sounds pretty hardcore! (STOPPING) There it is.

(FX: HISS OF STEAM FROM BROKEN XYBROX.)

HEX:
Hold up, shouldn't we wait for the others?

ACE:
They'll catch up.

HEX:
Beowulf's struggling. He's not in great shape, Ace.

ACE:
Don't worry, we can handle this –

(FX: SUDDEN CLANKING AS XYBROX STANDS)

HEX:
It's up and about.

ACE:
Not for long. (FX: HARPOON RELOAD) Looks pretty robotic. What did Lysandra say? Insectoid cybernetic?

HEX:
Whatever it is, it's ugly up close.

(FX: XYBROX ROAR)

OLD BEOWULF:
(ARRIVING) Here is something I do understand. Something to hit.

(FX: XYBROX ROAR AND CLANKING AS IT APPROACHES)

WIGLAF:
Your friend said it seeks stolen treasure.

ACE:
(AIMING) Something like that…

(FX: NEUTRON HARPOON FIRES – XYBROX FALLS WITH A ROAR)

ACE:
Whoah. Thank you, and good night.

(FX: HISS OF STEAM)

HEX:
Hold on. It's getting up… again!

(FX: XYBROX CLANKING AS IT STANDS AGAIN)

ACE:
Back, everyone! … OK, what else have we got?

HEX:
Plasma grenades?

ACE:
They'll do- (BARGED BY BEOWULF) Oof!

OLD BEOWULF:
Stand aside, Aesir. This is my kingdom. My fight.

ACE:
Wait. You can't-

OLD BEOWULF:
What is this? (TAKING GRENADE) A thunderbolt?

HEX:
Not exactly –

OLD BEOWULF:
It will do. (RUNNING)

ACE:
What's he think he's playing at, getting so close to that thing?

HEX:
I think he means to blow it off the cliff.

ACE:
Yeah, but he'll go over with it if he's not [careful] — (REALISATION) Beowulf, no-!!! (GRABBED BY WIGLAF) Ah! Let me go, Wiglaf!

WIGLAF:
It is his destiny! (CALLING) They will tell such tales of you, my Lord!

(FX: CROSS TO:)

OLD BEOWULF:
(CALLING) I will see you in Valhalla, Aesir! (TO XYBROX) Now, monster. To the depths of hell with you! Yaaaaaaaaaaaaaa—!

(FX: BEOWULF CHARGES XYBROX — 'FOOM' OF PLASMA GRENADE — BEOWULF'S CRY FADING AS BOTH FALL OVER CLIFF)

SCENE 88: INT. BLACK TARDIS – CONTROL ROOM

(FX: DOORS OPENING. ARISTIDES ENTERS, FOLLOWED BY SALLY)

SALLY:
Captain? What did you mean, 'appointment with the Doctor'?

ARISTEDES:
Stand back, Morgan. (FX: TELEPORT TRACKER BLEEPING)

SALLY:
That's a teleport tracker!

ARISTEDES:
The receiver's clamped onto a certain something two hundred miles away. I'm assuming it's still there…

(FX: TELEPORT TRACKER UPS IN PITCH)

ARISTEDES:
Yes! Now, activate-!

(FX: LONGER ZIP OF TELEPORT AS REGENERATIVE POD ARRIVES)

SALLY:
What is that thing? A giant egg?

ARISTEDES:
A regenerative pod. A kind of healing capsule. Believe it or not, the Doctor's in there.

SALLY:
You're not serious?

ARISTEDES:
He met with an unhappy accident just after he left us.

SALLY:
Is he alright?

ARISTEDES:
(LOOKING AT DISPLAY) Apparently so. It's been ready to pop for sixteen years. Now. Release code…

SALLY:
Captain – how do you know all this?

ARISTEDES:
An alien encountered the Doctor and told me the story. Now I've more tools at my disposal, I can have another go at cracking this egg.

SALLY:
No. We should wait for Hex and Ace.

ARISTEDES:
(ANGRY) Haven’t you realised yet? The Doctor’s using us to stop the monsters getting to them. We’re shields. We’re soldiers. We’re expendable. I just want him admit it to our faces.

SCENE 89: EXT. CLIFFTOP

WIGLAF:
(LOOKING OVER CLIFF) I see the dragon sinking in the sea.

ACE:
You should have let me stop him, Wiglaf!

HEX:
Leave it, Ace. What's done is done.

WIGLAF:
There! The King's helmet, on the rocks below… I should climb down to retrieve it.

HEX:
Hold up, there's something else down there!

WIGLAF:
Where-?

ACE:
(EXCITED) There, holding onto the rockface!

OLD BEOWULF:
(OFF, FAINT) Wiglaf! Aesir! Help me!

WIGLAF:
(OFF, OVER CLIFF) Odin be praised! The King lives!

ACE:
Good old Beardy.

HEX:
Come on, we'd best help the old fella up. (CLIMBING DOWN)

ACE:
You do that. I'm going to find Lysandra.

HEX:
What, you don't want to help us?

ACE:
Love to. But I don't trust her not to — (STOPS HERSELF)

HEX:
Not to what? Ace?

ACE:
Take off without us.

HEX:
C'mon. She wouldn't-!

ACE:
Wouldn't she-? (GRIM) See you back at the TARDIS. (RUNNING) If it's still there!

HEX:
(CALLING AFTER) Ace. Ace!!

SCENE 90: INT. BLACK TARDIS — CONTROL ROOM

(FX: B/G TARDIS HUM)

SALLY:
Deliberately putting us in harm's way? Weighing our lives up against theirs? No. The Doctor wouldn't do that. (BEAT) Would he?

ARISTEDES:
You can ask him yourself. In ten. Nine. [Eight. Seven. Six. Five. Four]

(FX: ACE RACES IN)

ACE:
Lysandra! Don't even- (SEES EGG) What the hell's that?

ARISTEDES:
I was hoping to spare you this, McShane. … Three, two, one, zero!

(FX: CLICK AND SMOOTH HUM AS POD OPENS)

ARISTIDES:
(STEPPING FORWARD) Hello… Doctor?

GARUNDEL:
Hello girls. Bet you never thought you'd see me again!

ARISTEDES:
(COMPLETELY THROWN) You! But… you said the Doctor was in there!

GARUNDEL:
Oh he was. But my need was more pressing.

ACE:
Didn't Beowulf cut off your [head]?

GARUNDEL:
Told you, sister. Urodelians grow back anything, given time. How long was I out?

SALLY:
Sixteen years.

GARUNDEL:
(RUBBING NECK) Ooh. No wonder I got a crick in my neck. (FINDING BLASTER IN HOLSTER) Fortunately I also got a blaster. Thanks to my benefactor. Now where was I? Oh yeah. Taking this ship. (DRAWS BLASTER)

ARISTEDES:
But how did you even get in the pod?

GARUNDEL:
Got an offer I couldn't refuse.

ACE:
Where's the Doctor?

GARUNDEL:
Enough with the questions. Now. To business.

ARISTEDES:
What about your scoresheet?

GARUNDEL:
New head. New rules. (BEAT) OK, strictly speaking it's just a new neck. Anyhoo. Eeny, meeny, miney mo. Catch a tadpole by his toe. Who, shall, I, shoot, first? Hello. Unlucky, blondie. (MAKES TO SHOOT) Hold up.

ACE:
Technical hitch?

GARUNDEL:
Sixteen years in a gunk tank, trigger's sticky —

WIGLAF:
(ENTERING TARDIS) A monster! In Valhalla itself!

GARUNDEL:
Beg pardon? Do I know you?

WIGLAF:
Fear not, Valkyries, I shall cleave its head from its shoulders! (CHARGING FORWARD) Yaaaa!

GARUNDEL:
Seriously? Again?

SALLY:
Wiglaf, no!

(FX: SWIPE OF WIGLAF'S SWORD AND GARUNDEL FALLS)

ARISTEDES:
You stupid- (ANNOYED) It's not like he had anything useful to tell us.

WIGLAF:
Was my father in thrall to such a beast?

ACE:
Same one, actually.

WIGLAF:
Then his debt is paid. Aesir. You should know. The King is here. His wounds are mortal… Hex tends him.

GARUNDEL:
(WEAK, RASPING) A word, ladies…

SALLY:
That's disgusting.

WIGLAF:
It lives…?!?

ARISTEDES:
Morgan. Get him out.

SALLY:
Yes, Ma'am. Come on you. It's not Valhalla-time yet. (LEADS WIGLAF OUT)

WIGLAF:
(EXITING TARDIS) So many strange sights…

GARUNDEL:
(RASPING) The pod… Get me back in. Pleeease.

ACE:
Not before you tell us everything.

GARUNDEL:
(RASPING) I don't have much time…

ACE:
Then you'd better make it quick.

(FX: FLASHBACK WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 91: INT. URODELIAN PODCRAFT [FLASHBACK]

(FX: B/G GLOOPINESS)

GARUNDEL:
(RASPING V/O) My gill function… keeps my brain alive. For a while. This is how I was back then. In my ship. Weohstan arrived… Only he wasn't quite himself…

(FX: WEOHSTAN STEPPING INTO POD)

WEOHSTAN:
(POSSESSED) Garundel. The time of your bargain is come.

GARUNDEL:
(RASPING) Weohstan… Is that you?

WEOHSTAN:
(POSSESSED) You have one chance, Urodelian.

GARUNDEL:
(RASPING) You're… different. Your eyes, they're not… (WHEEZE) … not human.

WEOHSTAN:
(POSSESSED) Deliver the Doctor, and you may live.

GARUNDEL:
(RASPING) Take him. In the pod. The code-

WEOHSTAN:
(POSSESSED) —does not matter. (RAISES SHIELD) I carry Wayland's Shield. It is the key to many doors.

(FX: SHIELD CRACKLES WITH ENERGY. CLICK AND HUM OF POD OPENING)

DOCTOR:
Hello? Could someone give me a hand? Legs are like jelly. Somebody…?

WEOHSTAN:
(POSSESSED) Doctor. Come with me.

DOCTOR:
(PULLED OUT) Thank you. Do I know you? …

WEOHSTAN:
(POSSESSED) Doctor…

DOCTOR:
(HARD, SOMBRE) Yes. Yes, I rather think I do.

WEOHSTAN:
(POSSESSED) Garundel of Urodel. You freely discharge this being, under your protection. You deliver him to our possession?

DOCTOR:
Don't worry your head over it, Garundel. I can see you've little choice.

GARUNDEL:
Yes! Do it.

DOCTOR:
You're forbidden to interfere directly. So many rules. So many hoops to jump through.

WEOHSTAN:
(POSSESSED) You can still choose to save yourself, Doctor. Let this creature die.

DOCTOR:
You know I can't do that.

WEOHSTAN:
(POSSESSED) The stories about you – ruthless destroyer of worlds. Are they only true when you have your soldiers?

DOCTOR:
You shouldn't believe everything you hear in stories.

WEOHSTAN:
(POSSESSED) Garundel lies, he cheats, he steals. He has killed.

DOCTOR:
He is not my concern. I am not the moral arbiter of the universe. And neither are you.

WEOHSTAN:
(POSSESSED) You are saved, Urodelian. Coincidence has been aligned. Your navigational failure. A missing TARDIS. A stray weapon. Fate has conspired. The dice are cast.

DOCTOR:
Dice? I thought we were playing – [chess.]

WEOHSTAN:
(POSSESSED) The game has changed. That… concerns you?

DOCTOR:
I can see you're not quite yourself. Filtering your essence through a Nordic bloodline. It's a good trick. But I've seen it done before. (BEAT) Who's the unfortunate you've possessed?

WEOHSTAN:
It is of no consequence.

DOCTOR:
A local lord? No. From the armour, I'd say a visitor. One of Beowulf's men?

WEOHSTAN:
(POSSESSED) This mortal will remember nothing. He dies twelve years hence in his bed. That is the end of his story. You, Doctor, have another chapter ahead. It will not be pleasant.

DOCTOR:
I expect nothing less. What of my friends?

WEOHSTAN:
(POSSESSED) They are no longer in this time. The forces of chaos range against them.

DOCTOR:
I have every faith in their abilities.

WEOHSTAN:
(POSSESSED) You cannot save the boy. He is marked. The girl is a wolf you have steeped in blood.

DOCTOR:
No! They are innocent. I'm protecting them…

WEOHSTAN:
(POSSESSED) You are willing to let the soldiers die in their stead?

DOCTOR:
Not willing, no. But they know the risks.

WEOHSTAN:
(POSSESSED) Do they truly? Have you told them?

DOCTOR:
Not yet. But I plan to.

WEOHSTAN:
(POSSESSED) Your plans end here, Doctor.

DOCTOR:
Then I'll have to improvise. (BEAT) That should scare you. Don't forget your bargain.

(FX: WEOHSTAN LIFTS GARUNDEL INTO POD — POD STARTS TO CLOSE)

WEOHSTAN:
(POSSESSED) There, Urodelian. You are in place. (PUTTING BLASTER IN GARUNDEL'S HOLSTER) You will have need of your weapon.

DOCTOR:
(OFF, AS POD DOOR CLOSES) Ah, I was right. The co-ordinates are inscribed on the shield. The boss from Wayland's Forge. I should have-

(FX: SHIELD CRACKLES – DISTORTED TELEPORT ZIP AS DOCTOR VANISHES – POD DOOR CLOSES. REVERSE WHOOSH TO:)

SCENE 92: INT. BLACK TARDIS — CONTROL ROOM

GARUNDEL:
Weohstan did something with my teleport. The Doctor vanished. That's everything. I swear. Now… please.

ARISTEDES:
The boss, the Forge. Why does he keep saying that?

ACE:
Alright, Lysandra. Kermit's suffered enough.

HEX:
(ENTERING) … Ace? Ace, you need to come quick. It's the King, [he's-]

ARISTEDES:
Ah, Schofield. Just the man.

GARUNDEL:
(RASPING) In… the… pod…

HEX:
I know I'm a trained nurse, but I must have missed the day they did advanced decapitation.

ARISTEDES:
You heard him. He's re-attached his head in there once already. Take the… parts and put them in.

HEX:
Why me? (LIFTING GARUNDEL'S HEAD) Eeurgh.

ARISTEDES:
Think of it as… a facelift.

(FX: HEX LIFTS GARUNDEL INTO THE POD)

GARUNDEL:
(RASPING) Funny. See you in the next life, sister.

(FX: POD CLOSING)

ARISTEDES:
Not if I see you first, toad-man.

ACE:
Whatever was controlling Weohstan used the shield to send the Doctor — where?

HEX:
Shield-?

ACE:
Wayland's shield! Weohstan mentioned it before.

ARISTEDES:
I'm guessing it'd have been passed down to his son…?

ACE:
But it's wood. It's all burned up.

HEX:
No. Not the middle bit. You know, the grip. It's metal.

ARISTEDES:
Of course. The boss. It's called the shield boss.

WIGLAF:
(OFF, OUTSIDE TARDIS) The King! The king is dying!

ACE:
What? But I thought-

HEX:
I came to tell you, Ace. There's nothing more anyone can do.

ACE:
I should go. (HURRIES OUT)

ARISTEDES:
(CALLING AFTER) Ace. We need that shield!

SCENE 93: INT. BEOWULF'S RUINED HALL (DOORWAY)

ACE:
(HURRYING OVER) What happened-?

WIGLAF:
He fell. At the door. He should be in his Hall. For the end.

SALLY:
Ace, help me.

(FX: ACE AND SALLY LIFT BEOWULF INTO THE HALL)

OLD BEOWULF:
(WEAK) Ah. My Valkyries. You bear me to the gates of Valhalla…

(FX: THEY SET HIM DOWN)

ACE:
Don't try to move.

SALLY:
(SOTTO) He's lost a lot of blood. Hex says there's massive internal damage. Every bone, broken. I can't believe he made it back.

ACE:
(SOTTO) He's a one-off, that's for sure. (ASIDE) Wiglaf, we need your shield.

WIGLAF:
But, my father passed it to me. His father to him-

OLD BEOWULF:
Give it, Wiglaf. We owe the Gods this much. Grant your King his dying wish.

SALLY:
You're not dying…

OLD BEOWULF:
Lies do not become you, pretty one. You, I think, must be Freya.

ACE:
Oi, I thought I was your favourite.

OLD BEOWULF:
(LAUGHS THEN WINCES IN PAIN AND COUGHS) I have done enough? To redeem my honour? To enter Valhalla?

ACE:
Listen, Beardy. In more than a thousand years, a girl in a classroom will pay that bit more attention for a day, because of you.

OLD BEOWULF:
Your words still confuse me. After all this time.

ACE:
I've a friend. He fights monsters, too.

OLD BEOWULF:
He is lucky to have a cohort such as you.

ACE:
You think? I've let him down. Been too worried about getting my nose put out of joint. Left it too long.

OLD BEOWULF:
You have time to make amends, Aesir. I do not.

ACE:
Don't…

SALLY:
Ace, we should… I'm sorry, Your Majesty. (SALUTING) It's been an honour.

OLD BEOWULF:
Were I the monster. And you two were coming… I would be afraid. Go. Find your 'Doctor'. Fight for him. For me.

ACE:
(HOLDING BACK TEARS) Goodbye, Beowulf. We won't forget. No-one will.

(FX: ACE AND SALLY WALK AWAY)

OLD BEOWULF:
Faithful Wiglaf, son of Weohstan. Come.

WIGLAF:
(KNEELING BY BEOWULF) My Lord.

OLD BEOWULF:
Tell me one more tale. Before I sleep.

WIGLAF:
My lord… I do not… I cannot…

OLD BEOWULF:
(GETTING WEAKER) Tell me of the simple warrior who fought monsters. Who became King. Tell me — (BEAT) Tell me the story of Beowulf…

SCENE 94: INT. TARDIS – CONTROL ROOM

ARISTEDES:
Right. Off you go, Garundel.

(FX: TELEPORT ZIP)

HEX:
What was that?

ARISTEDES:
Teleport. Back to his ship. His mothership might pick him up – eventually. Besides, he wouldn't thank us for taking him with us.

HEX:
You're saying it's a better option staying here in the Dark Ages with your head cut off than going wherever we're going?

ARISTEDES:
Basically. Yes.

HEX:
Right. Glad we're clear on that.

ACE:
(ENTERING WITH SALLY) Here it is. Wayland's Shield.

ARISTEDES:
Put it on the console.

(FX: CRACKLING)

ACE:
The carvings – they're glowing.

HEX:
The second you put it on the console.

ARISTEDES:
Runes. I can't translate them.

SALLY:
But the TARDIS can! Look!

ARISTEDES:
(TAPPING KEYS) Co-ordinates. But they don't make sense! Time vectors – negative. Spatial positions – imaginary!

(FX: SCANNER FLARES INTO LIFE)

DOCTOR:
(DISTORT – RECORDED MESSAGE BROADCAST) Hello? Is this thing recording?

HEX:
The scanner!

ACE:
I don't believe it.

SALLY:
Doctor?!

DOCTOR:
(D) Ah. Yes. (BEAT) Ahem. Attention TARDIS crew members. All four of you!

ARISTEDES:
Seems to be an automated message.

DOCTOR:
(D) I'm assuming you've made your introductions. Now. If you're hearing this message, you're standing in the wrong place. The TARDIS – the two TARDISes – began preparing for symbiotic propulsion as soon as they detected your life-signs in one location.

ARISTEDES:
Ah.

DOCTOR:
(D) Once the process has started, do not attempt to move either TARDIS until it's complete.

SALLY:
Oops. (WHISPERS) Explains our bumpy ride.

DOCTOR:
(D) When the TARDIS – my original TARDIS – is prepared, its next journey will require more power than a single Ship can muster. Back through the birth pangs of this universe. Sideways through the vortex and diagonally through several relative dimensions. I'm afraid the Black TARDIS – the clone, the cutting – will be consumed in takeoff.

(FX: VERY SLOW DISTORTED TARDIS ENGINE BEGINS)

HEX:
Ace. Our TARDIS. It's not white any more. It's-

ACE:
Blue! He set this up…

ARISTEDES:
He must have thought he'd already have the shield.

DOCTOR:
(D) Have a safe journey, and I'll see you all very soon.

SALLY:
He knew he'd get taken. He wants us to work together.

ACE:
He left a message. He never leaves us messages.

HEX:
Don't you see, Ace? He's learned. He's trying to tell us stuff!

ACE:
And you heard what he told us. Everyone. Inside the Blue TARDIS!

(FX: TARDIS DOORS OPENING)

SALLY:
What about our equipment, Captain? All the tech and weapons?

ARISTEDES:
No time. You heard. In a few seconds this Black TARDIS of ours is going to end up as so much rocket fuel. Come on, Morgan.

SALLY:
Yes, Ma'am! (SHE ENTERS TARDIS WITH ARISTEDES)

HEX:
So where exactly are we going?

ACE:
(ENTERING TARDIS) To rescue the Doctor.

HEX:
(ENTERING TARDIS) Rescue him from what?

(FX: TARDIS DOORS CLOSE – DEMATERIALISATION WITH RISING HUM OF BLACK TARDIS'S IMMINENT DESTRUCTION CONTINUES THROUGH FOLLOWING:)

DOCTOR:
(DISTORT – RECORDED MESSAGE RESUMES) Ah – good. It's still recording. It occurs to me I should remind you what I told you in the briefings before I left. (BEAT) But then. It also occurs to me that this message may make no sense at all. (GRAVE) If that's the case, then leave. Leave now. Whatever time, whatever place you're in – leave the TARDIS and don't look back. (BEAT) Because if I haven't already told you what I'm doing, something's gone terribly wrong. (CUTS OUT)

(FX: TARDIS DEMATERIALISATION BUILDS TO CRESCENDO & IMMENSE EXPLOSION)

DOCTOR:
(V/O) And one day, the little Black TARDIS would be tested. A sacrifice would be needed. And to save her friends, she'd know what to do. (BEAT, DARK) So that they could all live happily ever after.

(MUSIC: CLOSING THEME – CODA TO FOLLOW)

SCENE 95: INT. FENRIC'S HALL

(FX: A MASSIVE VIKING-STYLE HALL ON A FLAT WORLD. A HELLISH HORN BLOWS IN THE DISTANCE; ANSWERED BY OTHER, MORE DISTANT HORNS. CRACKLE OF FIRE.)

DOCTOR:
(FX: TWISTING IN CHAINS) (DELIRIOUS) Black TARDIS – White TARDIS. Black pawn takes white queen's bishop. White rook to- No! Black rook… No, white rook. White. White rabbit. Black cat. Cat takes rabbit. No, no, no. (CALMER) Get a grip, Doctor. Black – white – black – white. Queen takes King's knight. Checkmate! (BEAT) I said, checkmate!

(FX: A LOW CHUCKLE, OFF. SOMEONE APPROACHES…)

DOCTOR:
But wait. Wait. (BEAT, UNSURE) Was I black? Or was I white? (DISTRAUGHT) Which side was I playing?

(FX: THE SOMEONE STOPS. SOFT, EVIL, LAUGH)

DOCTOR:
So… we play the game again.

END OF PART FOUR

PRONUNCIATION:

Accent always falls on first syllable; make the h before r and n a strongly-breathed sound; ch in the pronunciation equivalent indicates the sound of ch in Bach or Scottish loch. The sounds indicated by –aya- and –ayo- are single syllables, somewhat like the vowel-sounds in "yeah" and "hail."

BEOWULF ..... baya-wulf

WEOHSTAN ..... wech-stahn ('ch' as in 'loch')

WIGLAF ..... wee-lahf

Geat/Geatland ..... gayat/gayat-land

Naigling ..... nail-ing

Hygelac ..... hee-yuh-lahk

IN A NUTSHELL – THE DOCTOR'S PLAN:

So, the Doctor knows Ace and Hex are under threat. The Grim Reaper's not happy, and it appears (from earlier stories) that the Elder Gods of the Universe are aiming to collect on his behalf, bringing the Old Times with them. The Doctor wants to stop them, and the only way to be sure is to cut them off at source. Which means getting back to the Old Times first. But he can't just fly there – for one, a TARDIS can't enter easily, and two, they'll see him coming.

Instead, he grows the Black TARDIS for a twofold purpose. He runs the Black TARDIS crew, recruiting soldiers to call out the Elder Gods and let them know he's gunning for them. That way, he expects they'll eventually set a trap for him, and he'll be taken back to the Old Times on their terms – or so they believe. When in fact the Gods will be playing into his hands.

Because the other part of the plan is to assemble the two crews and two TARDISes for symbiotic propulsion back into the Old Times. He's been collecting the items he needs for his plan – next on the list is Wayland's Shield, containing a legendary 'key to many doors' which will provide the co-ordinates for the journey. And given his recent experiences with Ace and Hex, the Doctor actually intends to tell <u>all</u> his companions their precise roles in the final battle with the Elder Gods - when the time is right.

Only the trap has been sprung early, and nobody has a clue. They're going in completely unprepared. And the Doctor can't possibly be intending to sacrifice his soldiers for his friends… can he? Or is there some other reason that Sally and Lysandra have been chosen? (For the answers, see Story 3!)